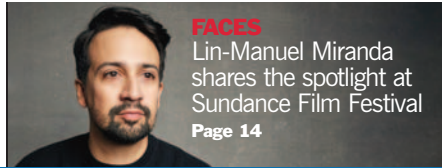


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50¢/Free to Deployed Areas

Fighting Feres

Active-duty military now able to file malpractice claims

BY ILEANA NAJARRO
Tampa Bay Times

Jessica Purcell, a captain in the U.S. Army Reserve, was pregnant with her first child when she noticed a swollen lymph node in her left underarm.

Health-care providers at a MacDill Air Force Base clinic told her it was likely an infection or something related to pregnancy hormones. The following year, they determined the issue had resolved itself.

It hadn't. A doctor off base found a large mass in her underarm and gave her a shocking diagnosis: stage 2 breast cancer.

Purcell was pregnant again. Her daughter had just turned 1. She was 35. And she had no right to sue for malpractice.

A 1950 Supreme Court ruling known as the Feres doctrine prohibits military members like Purcell from filing a lawsuit against the federal government for any injuries suffered while on active duty. That includes not only injury in combat, but also rape and medical malpractice, such as missing a cancer diagnosis.

SEE FERES ON PAGE 6



Jessica Purcell of St. Petersburg, Fla., a captain in the Army Reserve, was pregnant with son Jameson when she was told at a MacDill Air Force Base clinic not to worry about lumps under her arm. She now is diagnosed with stage 4 cancer. Jameson is 10 months old.

SCOTT KEELER
Tampa Bay Times

US recovers 2 bodies from site of Air Force plane crash in Afghanistan

BY PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
AND CAITLIN KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — American troops recovered the remains of two U.S. service members killed in the crash of an Air Force aircraft that went down in a Taliban-controlled area of Afghanistan, a U.S.

defense official said Tuesday.

They were the only people aboard the Air Force Bombardier E-11A communications aircraft that crashed Monday in Ghazni province, another U.S. official said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement.

The officials provided no further details, including the cause of the crash, which oc-

curred about 80 miles southwest of Kabul.

U.S. forces reached the crash site overnight Monday and cordoned off the area, said Arif Noori, a spokesman for Ghazni province's governor.

No insurgents were in the area when the U.S. troops arrived and "two bodies were found," Noori said.

The Taliban have claimed responsibil-

ity for downing the aircraft, but U.S. officials said there was no indication the plane was brought down by enemy fire. Afghans near the crash site — about 10 miles from Ghazni city — said the aircraft appeared to be having technical problems before it crashed.

SEE CRASH ON PAGE 5

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Department stores betting on booze to boost retail

Bloomberg

On a recent mid-January afternoon, the eight seats at the Shoe Bar in Nordstrom's new women's store were empty. "It's Dry January. People are broke," a bartender observed. And yet, within a half-hour, most of the stools had filled up.

"A bar means people are spending more time within your walls. The more time they spend and the more loose they are, the easier the sale on everyone's side,"

said David Bruno, a former buyer for Bergdorf Goodman and now a consultant on the elegant new Goodman's Bar, tucked into the second floor of the men's store a few blocks east of Nordstrom.

Destination dining inside luxury department stores is nothing new. Freds has been bringing ladies into Barney's New York since it opened in 1996. More recently, Tiffany & Co. introduced the Blue Box Cafe. But as Barney's prepares to shutter, and the Blue Box Cafe is closed for two years dur-

ing Tiffany's renovation, there's a previously untapped form of refreshment for shoppers in Midtown: cocktails.

An in-store bar has several benefits. Besides the potential for additional purchases, alcohol has high margins.

"The advantage that these bars can have is that they're in flagship locations," said Sucharitha Kodali, a retail analyst at Forrester Research. "There's already a lot of traffic, and they're in department stores that are thriving."

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates		Switzerland (Franc)		0.9724
Euro costs (Jan. 29)	\$1.1293	Thailand (Baht)		30.85
Dollar buys (Jan. 29)	60.8855	Turkey (Lira)		5.9433
British pound (Jan. 29)	\$1.33	(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)		
Japanese yen (Jan. 29)	105.00			
South Korean won (Jan. 29)	1,147.00			
Commercial rates		BEST RATES		
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3769	Prime rate		4.75
British pound	\$1.3087	Discount (30-day)		4.25
Canada (Dollar)	1.3184	Federal funds market rate		1.55
China (Yuan)	6.9368	3-month bill		1.55
Denmark (Krone)	6.7910	90-day note		1.55
Egypt (Pound)	15.8005			
Euro	\$1.1003/0.9088			
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7731			
Hungary (Forint)	307.31			
Israel (Shekel)	3.4557			
Japan (Yen)	109.02			
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.3038			
Norway (Krone)	9.1501			
Philippines (Peso)	50.75			
Poland (Zloty)	3.98			
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7514			
Singapore (Dollar)	1.3587			
South Korea (Won)	1,179.95			

INTEREST RATES

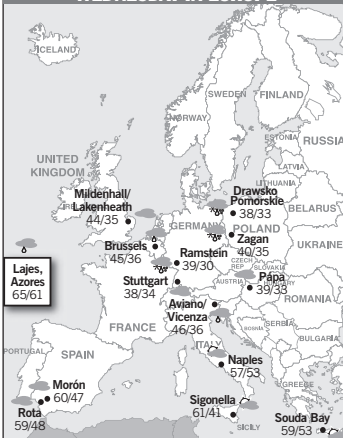
Prime rate	4.75
Discount rate	2.25
3-month bill	1.55
5-month bond	1.03
20-year bond	2.05

WEATHER OUTLOOK

WEDNESDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



WEDNESDAY IN EUROPE



THURSDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

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PACIFIC

Navy steams near contested Spratly Island reefs

By CAITLIN DOORNBOS
Stars and Stripes

YOKOSUKA NAVAL BASE, Japan — The Navy on Saturday sent a warship steaming past two of the seven features China has militarized in the South China Sea to challenge restrictions imposed on innocent passage, according to the 7th Fleet.

The USS Montgomery operated near Johnson and Fiery Cross reefs in the Spratly Islands, according to Navy photos from the advanced littoral combat ship.

The mission marked the first South China Sea freedom-of-navigation operation reported in 2020.

The operation challenged attempts by China, Vietnam and Taiwan to “require either permission or advance notification before a foreign military vessel engages in ‘innocent passage’ through territorial seas,” which are inconsistent with international law, 7th Fleet spokesman Lt. Joe Keiley said in an email Tuesday.

Keiley said the Montgomery’s crew did not notify the countries or ask permission before cruising by the reefs, demonstrating “that innocent passage may not be subject to such restrictions.”

Under international law as reflected in the Law of the Sea Convention, the ships of all states — including warships — enjoy the right of innocent passage through territorial seas,” he said.



Lt. Trevor Kent stands watch on the USS Montgomery during routine operations near Johnson Reef in the South China Sea on Saturday. The ship steamed past two reefs in the Spratly Islands in the first freedom-of-navigation operation in 2020.

Territorial seas extend 12 nautical miles from a nation’s coastline, according to international law.

Johnson and Fiery Cross reefs are among the seven Spratly Island land features China has militarized, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative.

Vietnam and Taiwan also claim the reefs.

The Spratlys are made up of approximately 100 land features, all of which are claimed by China, Vietnam and Taiwan. The Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei also lay claim to portions of them, Keiley said.

The United States does not recognize any nation’s sovereignty over the Spratly Islands.

China’s efforts to extend its influence in the region are considered most aggressive. In August, for example, the Pentagon accused Beijing of “bullying tactics” against other nations bordering the South China Sea.

Military forces of countries that lay claim to the Spratlys occupy about 45 of the islands, according to the CIA World Factbook. China has built up and militarized seven of them, according to the Asia Maritime Transparency Initiative. The region is rich in fishing grounds and untapped oil and gas deposits.

Freedom-of-navigation operations are conducted for many reasons, but generally challenge other nations’ claims that restrict free passage and defy international law.

“Freedom of navigation operations in the South China Sea are a part of daily operations of U.S. military forces throughout the region,” Keiley said.

The Navy in February sent the guided-missile destroyers USS Spruance and USS Preble through the Spratlys. In May, the Preble sailed within 12 nautical miles of the Gaven and Johnson reefs with the guided-missile destroyer USS Chung Hoon.

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Experts: Duterte’s threat to end US agreement could damage alliance

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte’s latest anti-American rant could do real damage to the longtime Pacific allies’ defense relationship, some security experts say.

Duterte, who began his term in 2016 by insulting U.S. leaders and stating his intention to move closer to China and Russia, last week threatened to terminate the Visiting Forces Agreement that governs the deployment of U.S. troops to his country.

The U.S. Embassy in Manila declined to comment on the issue Monday.

But Jeffrey Orndaniel, assistant professor of international security studies at Tokyo International University, said in an email from Manila on Tuesday that all military exercises in the Philippines would have to be reviewed and likely need a new legal framework to back them up if Duterte follows through on his threat.

“Washington will also [be] less likely to continue to commit to Philippine defense in the South China Sea, given that there was no way for its troops to be in Filipino territory,” he said.

U.S. counterterrorism assistance, which might also be impacted, is irreplaceable, according to Patricio Abinales, a Philippines expert at the University of Hawaii.

Duterte’s threat to terminate the agreement came in response to the U.S. revoking its visa for

one of his closest political allies, Sen. Ronald “Bato” Dela Rosa. Thousands of extrajudicial killings took place during a bloody drug war while Dela Rosa was chief of the Philippines National Police from 2016-18.

Duterte’s threat

“I’m warning you. This is the first time,” Duterte said in a speech Thursday, according to the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper. “If you do not correct that, I will terminate the basis of Visiting Forces Agreement.”

A day later, broadcaster Russia Today aired an interview in which Duterte said the U.S. sees his country as “a vassal state.”

“America is not the Philippines and the Philippines is not America. It ain’t this way anymore, and I refuse to dovetail under American foreign policy,” he said. “I cannot get a credible posture from the Americans; I can get it from the Russians and China.” The comments mark a return to the anti-American rhetoric that Duterte favored early in his term when he insulted then-President Barack Obama and called for the withdrawal of U.S. Special Forces from Mindanao and the end of bilateral military exercises.

U.S.-Philippines relations had appeared warmer under the administration of President Donald Trump. American officials have refrained from public criticism of the drug war and military exercises have continued. U.S. Army Green Berets helped Philippine troops win a bloody battle against

Islamic insurgents who had captured the southern city of Marawi in 2017.

However, there appears to have been only minimal progress under an agreement for shared use of U.S. military bases by Philippine forces.

Duterte has declined to challenge Chinese occupation of disputed territory in the South China Sea, even after an international court ruled in the Philippines’ favor. He scrapped plans for joint U.S.-Philippine patrols and naval exercises in the waters early in his term.

It’s unclear how termination of the Visiting Forces Agreement, which includes guidelines on visas and jurisdiction over crimes committed by American troops, might affect the U.S.-Philippines military relationship.

However, it might impact large-scale annual exercises such as Balikatan and Kamandag, and U.S. support for counterterrorism efforts and assistance during natural disasters such as Typhoon Haiyan, which prompted the deployment of a U.S. aircraft carrier and thousands of personnel to help with relief efforts in 2013.

The Philippines and U.S. are allies under the 1951 Mutual Defense Treaty, which mandates both countries support each other in case of an external aggression.

‘Game of chicken’

Abinales said Duterte is playing a “game of chicken” and the Visiting Forces Agreement would probably not be terminated.



SETH ROBSON/Stars and Stripes

The latest anti-American remarks by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, shown here in 2017, could do real damage to the longtime Pacific allies’ defense relationship, according to security experts.

Orndaniel said he expects the Philippine military establishment is trying to save the agreement.

“Duterte’s term expires in 2022. There is still hope that reason will prevail and that Manila can find a face-saving way to not follow through with the president’s pronouncements,” he said. “But there are those surrounding the president who, instead of advising him on the course of action most beneficial to Filipino interest, will instead kowtow and downplay the negative impact of [ending] the VFA,” he said.

Without an agreement, conducting operations under the alliance becomes difficult, for example, during contingencies in the South China Sea, Orndaniel said.

“It will be virtually impossible for the U.S. to preposition troops, defense equipment and [humanitarian and disaster assistance] supplies without a VFA,” he said.

The U.S. could lose a long-term opportunity to deter the Chinese in the South China Sea, he said.

“Beijing will certainly be happy with this,” Orndaniel said. “One of the very few options available for the U.S. to influence China’s behavior in the South China Sea, long-term, is to work with its alliance with the Philippines. It’s difficult to deter China in maritime Southeast Asia from Guam, Okinawa or Darwin. They’re simply too far away.”

It’s unlikely that the Philippine military establishment was consulted ahead of Duterte’s speech, Orndaniel said.

“Duterte has proven to be an inconsistent and misinformed leader who, on many occasions, does not act or speak on the basis of facts, proven statistics, or intelligence information,” he said.

“This episode demonstrates that four years into the presidency, Duterte’s parochial concerns and whims still prevail over the Philippines’ long-term national interest.”

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MILITARY

Commissary spending cap back in S. Korea

By KIM GAMEL

Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — The U.S. military has reimposed monthly commissary purchase limits in South Korea, less than a month after a retiree was banned from bases over black marketing allegations.

The new policy, effective as of Jan. 23, means that commissary shoppers will again be limited to \$800 for the main sponsor and \$300 for additional family members per month. Anybody who needs to spend more must request an exception from squadron or battalion commanders.

The decision was based on purchasing trends showing that most authorized shop-

pers stayed “well below” the limits since the purchasing cap was lifted in September, U.S. Forces Korea said Tuesday in announcing the decision on social media.

“It has been determined that reinstating the cap will have little or no effect to the majority of authorized individuals meeting their monthly purchasing needs,” it said.

USFK said the purchase limits are necessary “to deter black marketing and the abuse of duty-free privileges” and provide commanders with a “useful tool for identifying potential violations.”

USFK provided no further details. However, a U.S. military retiree was banned from bases in South Korea for 10 years earlier this month “for excessive purchas-

ing of duty-free goods and black marketing,” officials said at the time.

That cast a shadow over measures to ease shopping restrictions, which were implemented in September as USFK tries to make South Korea a more attractive assignment.

In September, the military also lifted entry ID checks at commissaries and post exchanges so anybody could enter, although shoppers are still required to show purchasing authorization at the cash register.

Service members, their families and other Americans working for the government may shop tax-free in commissaries and exchanges.

The military has had problems with goods purchased from base facilities being resold on the local market.

In one of the most notorious cases, a store manager and a South Korean businessman were convicted in 2003 of smuggling some 62,000 cases of wine and beer through a tunnel dug under a U.S. military housing compound in Seoul.

Some 28,500 U.S. service members are stationed in South Korea, which remains technically at war with the North after the 1950-53 Korean War ended in an armistice instead of a peace treaty.

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Fire in the fog

Army launches MLRS artillery in Europe for first time in 16 years

By MARTIN EGNASH

Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — A blaring hiss above a blanket of fog signaled the Army's launch of rocket artillery in Europe for the first time in 16 years.

The Multiple Launch Rocket System barrage at this sprawling training area began in about 10 feet of visibility, as the fog hung over a forest clearing Monday.

The visibility didn't affect the 41st Artillery Brigade's performance; the systems use electronic positioning to find and destroy targets. The fog was actually a bonus for the soldiers — it “added to their concealment,” brigade commander Col. Seth Kuzovich said.

The exercise marked the culmination of a long-term effort by U.S. Army Europe, as part of its mission to deter Russia along NATO's eastern borders.

In 2017, U.S. European Command told Congress they needed a long-range fires brigade, which led to authorization that year for the Army to increase its numbers on the Continent.

The brigade arrived in Europe in 2018, and they've been training and preparing to launch their rockets ever since.

The MLRS, long a staple of defense for the Army in places like the Korean Peninsula, drastically increases the Army's firing range in Europe.

Howitzers used by the Army's 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 173rd Airborne Brigade stationed in Europe have a range of less than 20 miles.

The MLRS can hit targets more than 100 miles away, though Monday's exercise used reduced-range practice rockets.

Placing the rocket troops in Germany is “a display of our continued commitment to NATO and our collective resolve to support European security,” the Army said in a statement.

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PHOTOS BY ZACHARY STAHLBERG/U.S. Army

Pfc. Ramos Santos stands watch during a live-fire exercise Monday in Grafenwoehr, Germany.



Above: The M270A1 Multiple Launch Rocket System fires a reduced-range practice rocket during a live-fire exercise. Left: Soldiers load reduced-range practice rockets to be used during the exercise.

WAR ON TERRORISM



SANA/AP

Syrian army soldiers flash the victory sign in western Aleppo, Syria, on Monday. Syrian government forces pressed in their offensive Tuesday, closing in on a major rebel stronghold in the northwest province of Idlib, state media and opposition activists said.

Using airstrikes for cover, Syrian troops enter rebel-held town

By ALBERT ALI
AND BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Syrian government forces Tuesday entered a key rebel-held town in the country's northwest after surrounding it on three sides, sending thousands of people fleeing to safety in areas farther north, opposition activists and pro-government media said.

The push into the town of Maaret al-Numan in Idlib province came as Syrian forces were also advancing against insurgent positions west of the city of Aleppo, according to state media and opposition activists.

The town of Maaret al-Numan, which has been in rebel hands since 2012, sits on the highway linking Damascus with Aleppo. Syrian troops were keeping a road leading west out of the town open, apparently to give insurgents a chance to withdraw.

Syrian government forces have been on the offensive for more than a month in northwestern Idlib province, the last rebel stronghold in the country. But in recent days, the government captured more than a dozen villages in the area as the insurgents' defenses began to crumble. Al-Qaida linked rebels control much of Idlib province and small parts of the adjacent area in Aleppo.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor, said Syrian troops entered the western neighborhoods of Maaret al-Numan under the cover of intense airstrikes.

The pro-government Sham FM reported that troops had taken control of most of the town, adding that Syrian soldiers were conducting search operations as experts began to dismantle explosives and booby-traps left behind by militants.

Earlier in the day, Syrian troops captured nearby Kfar Roummah, a village that lies southwest of Maaret al-Numan, according to the Observatory. Syrian state TV

Maaret al-Numan, which has been in rebel hands since 2012, sits on the highway linking Damascus with Aleppo.

confirmed that government forces were inside.

Farther north, government forces began an offensive on the western suburbs of Aleppo in an attempt to push insurgents away from Syria's largest city. Rebels have rained artillery and mortar shells down on Aleppo in recent days.

On Monday, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement that Washington "condemns these unjustifiable attacks against the people of northwest Syria." He added that the U.S. calls for an immediate cease-fire and "full access to the affected areas by humanitarian organizations to alleviate the suffering of the hundreds of thousands that have fled the incessant bombing."

The government offensive in Idlib province has led to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of people, many of them to areas close to the border with Turkey. The province is home to 3 million civilians, and the U.N. has warned of the growing risk of a humanitarian catastrophe along the Turkish border.

The push in Maaret al-Numan and west of Aleppo brought government forces closer to retaking a critical north-south highway that passes through the town.

In August, Syrian troops captured another town that the highway passes through, Khan Sheikhoun. If Syrian troops capture Maaret al-Numan, their next target is likely to be Saragheh, which would become the last major town on the M5 highway outside government control.

US-Iran tensions offer ISIS a window to strike

By BASSEM MROUE
Associated Press

BEIRUT — Islamic State's self-styled "caliphate" across parts of Iraq and Syria seemed largely defeated last year, with the loss of its territory, the killing of its founder in a U.S. raid and an unprecedented crackdown on its social media propaganda machine.

But tensions between the United States and Iran and the resulting clash over the U.S. military presence in the region provide a comeback opportunity for the extremist group, whose remnants have been gradually building up a guerrilla campaign over the past year, experts say.

American troops in Iraq had to pause their operations against ISIS for nearly two weeks amid the tensions. From the other side, Iranian-backed Iraqi militiamen who once focused on fighting the militants have turned their attention to evicting U.S. troops from the Middle East.

In the meantime, ISIS sleeper cells intensified ambushes in Iraq and Syria in the past few weeks, killing and wounding dozens of their opponents in both countries. Activists and residents say the attacks have intensified since the U.S. killed a top Iranian general, Qassem Soleimani, in a

Jan. 3 drone strike at Baghdad's airport.

It is not clear whether the uptick is related to the repercussions that followed from the strike, and it is possible some of the attacks had been planned before Soleimani's killing. U.S. officials deny seeing any particular increase in ISIS activities.

"They haven't taken advantage of it, as far as we can see," said James Jeffrey, the State Department envoy to the international coalition fighting ISIS.

On Jan. 5, Iraq's parliament called for the expulsion of the 5,200 U.S. troops from the country who have been there since 2014 on a mission to train Iraqi forces and assist in the fight against ISIS. The U.S.-led coalition then put the fight against ISIS on hold to focus on protecting its troops and bases. It said last week that it had resumed those operations after a 10-day halt.

"This tension will for sure help Daesh, as all forces fighting it become busy with other matters," warned Abdullah Suleiman Ali, a Syrian researcher who focuses on jihadi groups, using the Arabic acronym for ISIS.

Among other things, he said Iran-U.S. tensions help give ISIS the opportunity to restructure as its new leader, Abu Ibrahim al-

Hashimi al-Qurayshi, strengthened his grip. Al-Qurayshi was announced in the past for long-time leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi was killed by a U.S. raid in Syria in October.

"The day the American-Iranian clash began, Daesh started intensifying its attacks," said Rami Aburrahman, who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, an opposition war monitor.

On Jan. 14, ISIS launched a cross border attack from Syria into Iraq, killing an Iraqi officer. A day later, ISIS fighters attacked an Iraqi force in the central Salaheddine region, killing two soldiers and wounding five. Two days later, an Iraqi intelligence major was killed in a car bomb north of Baghdad.

One of the deadliest attacks occurred in Syria on Jan. 14, when ISIS fighters stole some 2,000 cattle from a village near the eastern town of Mayadeen. One of the four shepherds that own the cattle informed authorities, and a Syrian government military force was sent to the area, where they were met by ISIS fire.

As the forces returned to their base, ISIS gunmen laid an ambush, killing 11 troops and pro-government fighters as well as two shepherds.



SAIFULLAH MATTOON/AP

The wreckage of a U.S. military aircraft that crashed in Ghazni province, Afghanistan, is seen Monday.

Crash: E-11A has Battlefield Airborne Communications Node

FROM FRONT PAGE

U.S. forces in Afghanistan said Tuesday that what is assessed to be the aircraft flight data recorder has been recovered and the remnants of the aircraft were destroyed.

The Air Force's four E-11A aircraft are assigned to the 430th Expeditionary Electronic Combat Squadron and operate out of Kandahar Airfield.

Equipped with the Battlefield

Airborne Communications Node, the E-11A helps to ensure communication in a country where mountains and poor infrastructure pose challenges for military operations.

Dubbed "Wi-Fi in the sky," they are in the air every minute of the day, the Air Force has said.

Stars and Stripes reporter Zubair Babakarkhail contributed to this report. wellman.phillip@stripes.com Twitter: @pwwellman

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MILITARY

Feres: Two medical cases key in providing reforms to malpractice claims

FROM FRONT PAGE

Thanks in part to Tampa, Fla., lawyer Natalie Khawam, a provision in this year's national defense budget allows those in active duty to file medical malpractice claims against the government for the first time since the Feres case.

With the Department of Defense overseeing the new claims process, the question now is how fairly and timely complaints will be judged. And whether, in the long run, this new move will help growing efforts to overturn the ruling and allow active duty members to sue like everyone else.

History

In 1946, Congress passed the Federal Tort Claims Act, allowing private citizens to file civil lawsuits against the federal government. The act included a key exception: injuries tied to combat could not serve as the basis of a claim.

The Supreme Court then clarified this exception when it took up the Feres case. After Lt. Rudolph Feres died in what his widow alleged was a preventable barracks fire, she tried to sue for negligence.

Instead, the high court ruled that the government is not liable under the Federal Tort Claims Act for any active duty service members' injuries "incident to service." The phrase, however, was never clearly defined.

In the years since the landmark 1950 ruling, "incident to service" has come to cover military members in a variety of scenarios. They include a man given LSD without his consent as part of an experiment, a woman set on fire by an Army civilian, sailors who drowned on a Navy recreational rafting trip and a woman who died in childbirth at a naval hospital.

Efforts to overturn the ruling through the court system or amend the Federal Tort Claims Act through Congress have



PHOTOS BY SCOTT KEELER/Tampa Bay Times

Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stayskal undergoes a scan at the University Diagnostic Institute in Tampa. Stayskal is receiving treatment for advanced lung cancer at Tampa's Moffitt Cancer Center.

failed.

Those who defend the Feres ruling raise concerns that opening up litigation rights will drain the U.S. Treasury, said Eugene R. Fidell, who teaches military law at Yale Law School. As of September, the number of permanently assigned active duty, National Guard and reserve personnel was close to 2.17 million, according to the Defense Manpower Data Center.

There's also a concern that litigation could hurt discipline within a military unit. Defendants also note that active-duty service members can seek compensation through disability pay and other means, said Dwight Stirling,

founder and chief executive of the Center for Law and Military Policy nonprofit.

None of these arguments sat well with Khawam, who first met Army Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stayskal in the summer of 2018.

Richard Stayskal

In May 2017, Stayskal, a Green Beret based at Fort Bragg, N.C., went to the emergency room at the Womack Army Medical Center with chest pain, wheezing and dizziness. His doctors reviewed an earlier scan taken at the center and said that they thought they saw something, Stayskal said. Yet they sent him home with a diagnosis of atypical pneumonia and a referral to a pulmonologist.

His symptoms got worse, and at one point he passed out and woke up in the emergency room. Stayskal sought another medical appointment off base. He got scans and biopsies. That's where he learned that he had stage 3A lung cancer.

"It was a complete shock," Stayskal said. His military doctors had never mentioned cancer. He was even cleared for dive school earlier that year.

Frustrated that the cancer wasn't caught sooner and eager to hold someone accountable, Stayskal and his wife called dozens of lawyers. He kept hearing "no" and dial tones. He was, after all, active duty.

Then his mother reached out to Khawam.

The story upset Khawam. She knew Stayskal didn't have a lot of time and he couldn't afford to spend it on legal proceedings. So after discussing it with Stayskal, she drafted a bill.

Soon, Stayskal was driving

to Washington, D.C., again and again, to meet with members of Congress.

The plan was to pass the Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stayskal Military Medical Accountability Act of 2019 as part of the mammoth National Defense Authorization Act. Khawam knew that Congress would have to pass the defense budget.

As Stayskal's story made national headlines, Jessica Purcell followed developments at her home in St. Petersburg, Fla.

Jessica Purcell

Purcell suspects that medical personnel first steered her wrong in 2017, when she was told at MacDill's 6th Medical Group clinic not to worry about the lymph node in her underarm.

In August 2018, she underwent a scan at MacDill, this time for a lump that formed in her breast. She recalled being told then that the lymph node looked resolved. But days later, during a biopsy and scan at a private doctor's office she learned that the mass in her underarm had grown.

"How, within days, are there two different results?" she wondered.

The 6th Medical Group clinic wouldn't comment on a specific medical malpractice claim, citing privacy concerns. In an emailed statement, the group said it "takes every patient complaint very seriously."

"Every claim, including claims from service members, undergo a thorough peer review, and appropriate actions are taken when necessary to ensure patient safety, which is paramount," the statement said.

Purcell knew a bit about the

Feres doctrine, and was frustrated that she had no legal recourse.

"You're taking all the accountability out, and it's completely unfair," she said.

When her brother shared Stayskal's story with her, she had some hope. She contacted Khawam, who now represents her. She cheered on the attorney's efforts during the Washington meetings. But with talk of impeachment proceedings and the nation's capital so politically divided, she worried about whether the defense budget would even be adopted.

"I was like, 'I'll believe it when I see it.'"

Then, on Dec. 20, the budget and the provision were signed into law.

Looking ahead

Though the Feres doctrine remains unchanged, active-duty personnel can now file medical malpractice claims with the Department of Defense. The department must create rules for adjudicating the claims.

Claims are limited to personal injury or death caused by medical malpractice by a Department of Defense health care provider and must be filed within two years of the procedure or within three years if filed in 2020.

Legal experts see this as a good step forward for people like Stayskal and Purcell, but they worry about other cases that remain blocked by the doctrine.

For instance, Stayskal and Purcell still can't appeal their claims in federal court, and the Department of Defense will oversee what compensation they may get. Advocates also fear that this new provision will essentially put a stop to congressional or judicial efforts to tackle the doctrine.

Stayskal, 38, currently receives treatment at Tampa's Moffitt Cancer Center. He works at Fort Bragg in an administrative position at the sniper course. His cancer is stage 4 and is terminal, but he tries to focus on raising his young family.

Purcell, now 37, splits her treatment between Moffitt and the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston.

She's on medical leave from work at U.S. Central Command and U.S. Special Operations Command at MacDill. She keeps busy raising her 2-year-old daughter and her 10-month-old son. Her cancer has progressed to stage 4, spreading throughout her body. She's on chemo pills and will remain in treatment for the rest of her life.

"My kids will never know me without cancer," she said.

When she approached Khawam about filing her claim, she did it to add her name in the fight against Feres and for her family — not for the compensation, but for some accountability and closure.

As a member of the military, she said, she expected to receive quality medical care and the same equal standards as everyone else, at least.

"We put our lives on the line."



Jessica Purcell, left, is represented by Tampa attorney Natalie Khawam, right, who also represents Stayskal.

Pentagon: Troops in Korea are combat-ready

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NATION

Trump plan calls for two states, settlement freeze

By MATTHEW LEE
AND ARON HELLER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump unveiled his long-awaited Middle East peace plan Tuesday, calling for the creation of a State of Palestine with its capital in portions of east Jerusalem, saying it is a "win-win" opportunity for both Israel and the Palestinians.

The plan calls for the creation of a State of Palestine with its capital in portions of east Jerusalem, ending speculation as to whether his administration, in preparing a proposal without input from Palestinian leaders, would abandon a "two-state resolution" to the conflict.

Trump, releasing the plan before a pro-Israel audience at the White House with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu by his side, acknowledged that he had done a lot for Israel, but he said he wanted the deal to be a "great deal for the Palestinians." Trump said the deal is a "historic opportunity" for Palestinians to achieve an independent state of

their own.

The plan more than doubles the territory currently under Palestinian control, although it also recognizes Israeli sovereignty over major settlement blocs in the West Bank, something to which the Palestinians will almost certainly object. The Palestinians have already rejected the proposal, arguing Trump of being biased in favor of Israel as he has adopted policies that bolster Israel at their expense.

The plan does call for a four-year freeze in new Israeli settlement construction, during which time details of a comprehensive agreement would be negotiated. However, it was not immediately clear if the freeze could be extended if a final deal is not concluded in the four years.

The 50-page political outline goes further in concessions to the Palestinians than many analysts had believed was likely. However, it would require them to accept conditions they have been previously unwilling to consider, such as accepting West Bank settlements. It builds on a 30-page economic plan for the West Bank and

Gaza that was unveiled last June and which the Palestinians have also rejected.

Under the terms of the "peace vision" that Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser Jared Kushner has been working on for nearly three years, the future Palestinian state would consist of the West Bank and Gaza, connected by a combination of above-ground roads and tunnels.

Netanyahu and his main political challenger in March elections, Benny Gantz, had signed off on the plan.

The White House event came as Trump's impeachment trial continues in the Senate and Israel's parliament had planned a hearing to discuss Netanyahu's request for immunity from criminal corruption charges. Netanyahu withdrew that request hours before the proceedings were to begin, but Israel's parliament, the Knesset, still planned to meet.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity ahead of the plan's release, said they expected negative responses from the Palestinians, as well as Turkey and Iran, but were hopeful that



ALEX BRANDON/AP

President Donald Trump pauses as he speaks during an event with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Washington on Tuesday to announce the Trump administration's much-anticipated plan to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Jordan and Egypt, the only two Arab nations to have peace treaties with Israel, would not reject it outright. The officials said they expected Gulf Arab states like Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and others to cautiously welcome the plan.

The reaction of Jordan, which would retain its responsibilities over Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque under the plan, will be particularly significant, according to the officials, who said Kushner and others reached out to Arab leaders ahead of the rollout.

The Palestinians see the West Bank as the heartland of a future independent state and east Jerusalem as their capital. Most of the international community supports their position, but Trump has reversed decades of U.S. foreign policy by siding more blatantly with Israel. The centerpiece of his strategy was recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital and moving the American Embassy there. He's also closed Palestinian diplomatic offices in Washington and cut funding to Palestinian aid programs.

Trump team wrapping up trial defense as senators mull Bolton

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump's legal team prepared to wrap up arguments in his impeachment trial Tuesday afternoon as Senate Republicans wrestled with whether to allow witnesses, including John Bolton who appears poised to contradict a key Trump claim.

The arguments from defense lawyers have justified for public attention with revelations from a forthcoming book by former national security adviser Bolton, who says Trump wanted to withhold military aid from Ukraine until it committed to helping with investigations into Democratic rival Joe Biden. That assertion matters because Trump and his lawyers have repeatedly insisted that he never tied the suspension of security aid to political investigations.

News of the book clouded White House hopes for a big finish Tuesday as well as a swift end to the impeachment trial, as Democrats demanded witnesses and some Republicans expressed openness to the idea.

One Republican, Sen. James Lankford of Oklahoma, is floating an idea to subpoena Bolton's book manuscript so senators can see the evidence themselves.

It's an idea that may be gaining traction even as other Republicans have warned against a protract-

ed legal dispute with the White House, which has tried to block administration officials from appearing in the proceedings.

GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham wrote on Twitter that he "totally" supports Lankford's proposal. Graham, a key Trump ally, said the Bolton document should be made available to the Senate, in a classified setting, "where each Senator has the opportunity to review the manuscript and make their own determination."

Senate Republicans were to meet behind closed doors to consider next steps.

The Bolton revelations distracted from hours of arguments Monday by Trump's lawyers, who declared anew that no witness has testified to direct knowledge that Trump's delivery of aid was contingent on investigations into Democrats. Bolton appeared poised to say exactly that if summoned by the Senate.

"We deal with transcript evidence, we deal with publicly available information," Trump attorney Jay Byrnes said. "We do not deal with speculation."

Trump is charged with abusing his presidential power by asking Ukraine's leader to help investigate Biden at the same time his administration was withholding hundreds of millions of dollars in security aid. A second charge accuses Trump of obstructing Con-

gress in its probe.

On Monday, Trump's attorneys, including high-profile lawyers Ken Starr and Alan Dershowitz, launched a historical, legal and political attack on the entire impeachment process. They said there was no basis to remove Trump from office, defended his actions as appropriate and assailed Biden, who is campaigning for the Democratic nomination to oppose Trump in November.

Former Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi devoted her presentation to Biden and his son Hunter, who served on the board of a Ukraine gas company when his father was leading the Obama administration's diplomatic dealings with Kyiv. The legal team argued that Trump had legitimate reasons to be suspicious of the young Biden business dealings and concerned about corruption in Ukraine and that, in any event, he ultimately released the aid without Ukraine committing to investigations the Republican president wanted.

Biden has sought, without providing evidence, to implicate the Bidens in the kind of corruption that has long plagued Ukraine. Though anti-corruption advocates have raised concerns, there has been no evidence of wrongdoing by either the former vice president or his son.

Democrats say Trump released



JOSE LUIS MAGANA/AP

Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., speaks to the media before attending the impeachment trial of President Donald Trump on Tuesday.

the money only after a whistleblower submitted a complaint about the situation.

Even as defense lawyers laid out their case as planned, it was clear Bolton's book had scrambled the debate over whether to seek witnesses. Trump's legal team has rejected Bolton's account, and Trump himself denied it.

"I NEVER told John Bolton that the aid to Ukraine was tied to investigations into Democrats, including the Bidens," Trump tweeted. "If John Bolton said this, it was only to sell a book."

Republican senators face a pivotal moment. Pressure is mounting for at least four to buck GOP leaders and form a bipartisan majority to force the issue. Republicans hold a 53-47 majority.

Pompeo bars NPR reporter from his trip

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The State Department has barred an NPR reporter from traveling with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo this week on a trip that will take him to Ukraine, days after Pompeo got into a nasty dispute with another reporter from the news organization.

Michele Kelemen, a veteran State Department correspondent for NPR, was scheduled to be one of several reporters flying on Pompeo's plane to report on his weeklong trip to Europe and Central Asia starting Wednesday.

But according to people familiar with the situation, Kelemen was notified Sunday that she would not accompany Pompeo on his trip to five countries including Ukraine, which is the focus of impeachment hearings. Kelemen was given no formal reason for being kicked off, the people said. State Department officials did not return emails seeking comment.

The State Department Correspondents' Association, in a letter of protest asking the State Department to reverse its decision, noted the timing of Kelemen's removal. She was dropped after Pompeo got into a contentious exchange with NPR host Mary Louise Kelly and issued a statement accusing her of lying to him.

NATION



U.S. astronaut Christina Koch, member of the main crew of the expedition to the International Space Station, speaks with relatives through a safety glass prior the launch of Soyuz MS-12 space ship in Kazakhstan in March. Koch is set to return to Earth on Feb. 6.

Astronaut seeks salsa, surf after her record 11-month spaceflight

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — After nearly 11 months in orbit, the astronaut holding the record for the longest spaceflight by a woman can't wait to dig into some salsa and chips, and swim and surf in the Gulf of Mexico.

NASA astronaut Christina Koch told The Associated Press on Tuesday — her 319th consecutive day in space — that taking part in the first all-female spacewalk was the highlight of her mission. She's been living on the International Space Station since March and returns to Earth on Feb. 6, landing in Kazakhstan with two colleagues aboard a Russian capsule.

Koch said she and fellow astronaut Jessica Meir appreciated that the Oct. 18 spacewalk "could serve as an inspiration for future space explorers."

"We both drew a lot of inspiration from seeing people that were reflections of ourselves as we were growing up and developing our dreams to become astronauts," Koch told The Associated Press from the space station. "So to recognize that maybe we could pay that forward and serve the same for those that are up and coming was just such a highlight."

Koch's astronaut class of 2013 was split equally between women and men, but NASA's astronaut corps as a whole is male-dominated. Right now, four men and two women are living at the space

station.

"Diversity is important, and I think it is something worth fighting for," said Koch, an electrical engineer who also has a physics degree.

Koch's 328-day mission will be the second-longest by an American, trailing Scott Kelly's flight by 12 days. She's already set a record for the longest single spaceflight by a woman.

She took time out for a pair of news interviews Tuesday, the 34th anniversary of the space shuttle Challenger accident that claimed all seven lives on board.

— She said she loves her work — she conducted five spacewalks and tended to science experiments — but she also misses her friends and family.

"If they could visit here, I would continue staying for a very long time," Koch, a first-time space flier, told the AP.

Why do chips and salsa top her most-missed food list? Crunchy food like chips are banned on the space station because the crumbs could float away and clog equipment. "I haven't had chips in about 10½ months," she explained, "but I have had a fresh apple" thanks to regular cargo deliveries.

Koch grew up in Jacksonville, N.C., and now lives near the Gulf of Mexico in Galveston, Texas, with her husband, Bob. She said she can't wait for their next wedding anniversary, Christmas at home and his birthday.

\$20K raised to help man who survived 1952 lynching attempt

Associated Press

APEX, N.C. — A North Carolina man who survived an attempted lynching in 1952 has been helped by hundreds of people to move to a new home Tuesday so a highway can be expanded.

Lynn Council, 87, plans to move into a new house in Apex after living in his current home for more than 60 years, news

outlets reported.

Council was accused decades ago of a robbery he didn't commit. Two deputies hanged him from a tree to try to get him to confess. When he didn't, the deputies took him down.

Council later settled into a home just outside of Apex. About 20 years ago, he took out a \$20,000 federal home repair loan. One condition of the loan was that the full

amount must be paid if he moved out or died.

The state recently bought Council's home so the Department of Transportation can expand the NC-540 highway. That meant he needed to pay back the \$20,000 loan.

Garrett Raczek learned about Council's story and launched an online fundraiser to help pay off the debt. By early Tuesday morning, the fundraiser had exceeded

\$21,000.

"I sure thank the Lord for the gifts. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Thank you, Lord," Council said at a news conference Monday.

As for the attempted lynching, the Wake County Sheriff's Office and Apex police apologized last year. A bench in Council's honor was also placed outside the police department.

Father arrested in killings of 5 of his infant children

Associated Press

WOODLAND, Calif. — A California father about to be freed from prison has been taken into custody in connection with the decades-old killings of five of his infant children in a case a sheriff said has haunted his agency for years.

Paul Perez, 57, a convicted sex offender with a 20-year criminal history, was charged in the deaths of the children born between 1992 and 2001, authorities announced Monday, the same day he was supposed to be released from a state prison in Delano on unrelated charges.

Yolo County Sheriff Tom Lopez said the case reflects an "unspeakable evil," though a motive has not been determined.

"I cannot think of a case more disturbing than this one," he said. "There can be no victim more vulnerable and innocent than an infant and unfortunately this case involves five of them."

A homicide investigation was launched in the spring of 2007 after a fisherman found the badly decomposed remains of a 3-month-old boy recently identified as Nikko Lee Perez.

The child was wrapped in a Winnie the Pooh blanket, then in a layer of plastic and placed in



Perez

about 80 miles northeast of San Francisco.

An autopsy determined the infant died of blunt force trauma. He had a fractured skull and before death had sustained rib and other fractures that had started to heal by the time he was killed.

Investigators submitted the baby's DNA to the U.S. Department of Justice in hopes of obtaining an identity. But it wasn't until October that they found the match. They determined Nikko's identity and that he was born nine years earlier on Nov. 8, 1996, and about 170 miles away in Fresno.

His remains were identified after authorities used an expanded DNA database for the first time in the case, though it had been used widely in other cases.

With the new information, investigators determined Nikko had siblings: one who is known to

be dead and three others whose remains have not been found.

Perez was charged with five counts of premeditated murder with special circumstances of lying in wait, torture and multiple victims. He also faces charges of assault on a child under 8 and criminal enhancements for his prior convictions.

District Attorney Jeff Reigis said Perez is eligible for the death penalty but he has not yet decided whether to pursue it. Perez was scheduled to be arraigned Tuesday and authorities said it is unclear if he has an attorney.

Authorities said Nikko's siblings include another child born in 1997 with the name Nikko Lee Perez. Oddly, two others shared the same name: Kato Allen Perez, born in Merced in 1992, and Kato Krow Perez, born in Fresno in 2001. A fifth child was named Mika Alena Perez, born in Merced in 1995.

Perez was initially sentenced to two years in prison in 1990 for assault with intent to commit a sex offense, state corrections officials said.

Officials declined to say whether all the babies have the same mother. They asked for witnesses who know Perez or the children to come forward.



RICH PEDRONCELLI/AP

Yolo County District Attorney Jeff Reigis stands next to a photo of Kato Krow Perez, born in 2001, one of five infants believed to be killed by their father, Paul Perez, during a news conference in Woodland, Calif., on Monday. Perez has been arrested in the decades-old killings, officials said.

NATION

Puerto Rico opens 20% of schools amid quakes

By DANICA COTO
Associated Press

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — Puerto Rico opened only 20% of its public schools on Tuesday following a strong earthquake that delayed the start of classes by nearly three weeks as fears linger over the safety of students.

Only 177 schools were certified to open after engineers inspected them for damage caused by the magnitude 6.4 earthquake that killed one person and damaged hundreds of homes on Jan. 7. But the inspections were not to determine whether a school could withstand another strong earthquake or had structural shortcomings such as short columns that make it vulnerable to collapse, further worrying parents.

"Of course I am afraid," said parent Marien Santos, 38, who attended an open house at Ramon Vila Mayo high school on Monday in Rio Piedras, where officials gave her a copy of the inspection report and evacuation plans.

Her concerns were echoed by the school director, Elisa Delgado. While she feels that engineers did a thorough inspection of the school because they have used, or might use public-assistance programs. The decision, issued in response to an emergency petition by the administration, lifts a nationwide injunction imposed by a district judge in New York. That means that the government can begin applying the new rules, while legal challenges continue in lower courts.

The order supporting the Trump administration was handed down as Chief Justice John Roberts was presiding over President Donald Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate. He was joined by conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh in lifting the injunction.

All four of the court's liberal justices — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — noted their disagreement. Neither side explained its reasoning, which is not uncommon in such emergency motions.

"This decision allows the Government to implement regulations effectuating long-standing Federal law that newcomers in this country must be financially



CARLOS GUSTAF

The day after the Jan. 7 magnitude 6.4 earthquake hit Puerto Rico, people lined up for lunch at Bernardino Cordero Bernard High School, which was being used as a shelter, in Ponce, Puerto Rico. Tuesday, students returned to 20% of public schools in the U.S. territory.

the other exits are too narrow to handle the school's 450 students, she told The Associated Press.

Engineers have inspected 561 of the island's 856 public schools, finding at least 50 to be too unsafe to reopen, leaving some 240,000 students out of school for now. Ongoing tremors are also forcing crews to automatically re-inspect schools following any quake of 3.0

magnitude or higher, according to Puerto Rico's Infrastructure Financing Authority.

Since the 6.4 quake, there have been several strong aftershocks, including one with a 5.9 magnitude that hit on Jan. 11 and a 5.0 that struck Saturday. The biggest quake flattened the top two floors of a three-story school in the southern coastal city of Guanica

on Jan. 7, two days before classes were scheduled to start.

Overall, experts say that some 500 public schools in Puerto Rico were built before 1987 and don't meet new construction codes. A plan to retrofit all schools that need it, an estimated \$75 billion, would cost up to \$2.5 billion, officials have said, noting that those are preliminary figures.

Education Secretary Eligio Hernandez noted that another 51 schools are scheduled to start classes on Feb. 3, and that his department is reviewing recommendations on how best to proceed with the other schools.

"The Department of Education is going to take the time it needs and will take all necessary actions so that parents ... feel satisfied," he told reporters on Monday.

Elba Aponte, president of Puerto Rico's Association of Teachers, told the AP that she has received complaints and pictures from parents and school employees of at least 10 schools that are reopening but that they feel are still unsafe.

School and government officials are trying to figure out what to do with the roughly 240,000 students who aren't able to go to school yet, either because their building was deemed unsafe or has not yet been inspected. No schools in Puerto Rico's southern and southwest region will reopen for now, officials say.

Options include placing students in other schools with revised schedules or holding classes in refurbished trailers or outdoors under tarps, Aponte said as she lamented the situation.

"It's terrible," she said. "If there was one place where they could feel safe, it was at school."

Justices allow 'wealth test' for immigrants to proceed

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday allowed the Trump administration to begin implementing new "wealth test" rules, making it easier to deny immigrants residency or admission to the United States because they have used, or might use public-assistance programs.

The decision, issued in response to an emergency petition by the administration, lifts a nationwide injunction imposed by a district judge in New York. That means that the government can begin applying the new rules, while legal challenges continue in lower courts.

The order supporting the Trump administration was handed down as Chief Justice John Roberts was presiding over President Donald Trump's impeachment trial in the Senate. He was joined by conservative Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel Alito, Neil Gorsuch and Brett Kavanaugh in lifting the injunction.

All four of the court's liberal justices — Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Stephen Breyer, Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan — noted their disagreement. Neither side explained its reasoning, which is not uncommon in such emergency motions.

"This decision allows the Government to implement regulations effectuating long-standing Federal law that newcomers in this country must be financially

self-sufficient and not a 'public charge' on our country and its citizens," White House press secretary Stephanie Grisham said in a statement.

The rules establish new criteria for who can be considered dependent on the U.S. government for benefits — "public charges," in the words of the law — and thus ineligible for green cards and a path to U.S. citizenship. They were proposed to start in October but were delayed by the lower-court decisions.

Under the new policy, immigrants would be suspect if they are in the United States legally and use public benefits — such as Medicaid, food stamps or housing assistance — too often or are deemed likely to someday rely on them. The new criteria provide "positive" and "negative" factors for immigration officials to weigh as they decide on green-card applications. Negative factors include if a person is unemployed, dropped out of high school or is not fluent in English.

Immigrant groups have protested the rules and denounced the Supreme Court's action.

Opponents argue that punishing legal immigrants who need financial help endangers the health and safety of immigrant families — including U.S. citizen children — and will foist potentially millions of dollars in emergency health care and other costs onto local and state governments, businesses, hospitals and food banks.

Officials: Bryant's helicopter pilot tried to avoid heavy fog

Associated Press

CALABASAS, Calif. — A veteran pilot who plunged into a Los Angeles area hillside, killing Kobe Bryant and eight others, had tried to avoid fog so heavy that it had grounded police choppers, authorities said.

But even experienced pilots may have only seconds to act when they are blinded by weather, an expert said as investigators began scouring the wreckage for clues to Sunday morning's crash.

The NBA postponed the Los Angeles Lakers' next game against the Clippers on Tuesday after the deaths of the retired superstar and the other victims.

And while the official investigation into the cause of the crash was just beginning, experts and armchair pilots alike already were flooding social media and the airwaves with speculation.

One popular theme was the weather: Dense fog had settled along part of the flight path. The chartered Sikorsky S-76B was a luxury twin-engine aircraft often used by Bryant, 41, in traffic-jumping hops around the LA area's notoriously congested sprawl. It was heading from John Wayne Airport in Orange County to Camarillo Airport in Ventura County when it crashed in Calabasas.

Bryant, his 13-year-old daughter,

Gianna, and the other passengers were heading to Bryant's Mamba Sports Academy, a youth sports center in Thousand Oaks. Bryant was to coach a basketball tournament there in which his daughter was supposed to play.

Also killed were John Altobelli, 56, longtime head coach of Southern California's Orange Coast College baseball team, his wife, Keri, and daughter, Alyssa, who played on the same basketball team as Bryant's daughter, Christina Mauser, a girls' basketball coach at a Southern California elementary school, Sarah Chester and her daughter, Payton.

The pilot, Ara Zobayan, was chief pilot for the craft's owner, Island Express Helicopters. He also was a flight instructor, had more than 8,000 hours of flight time and had flown Bryant and other celebrities several times before.

Randy Waldman, a helicopter flight instructor who lives in Los Angeles, said the radar tracking data he's seen leads him to believe the pilot got confused in the fog and went into a fatal dive.

"The aircraft's speed" means he was completely out of control and in a dive," Waldman said.

"Once you get disoriented, your body senses completely tell you the wrong thing. You have no idea which way is up or down," he said.

Some experts raised questions of whether the helicopter should have even been flying. The weather was so foggy that the Los Angeles Police Department and the county sheriff's department had grounded their own choppers.

"He could have turned around and gone back to a safer place with better visibility," Waldman said.

The helicopter was flying around Burbank, just north of Los Angeles, when the pilot received air traffic control permission to use special visual flight rules, allowing the helicopter to fly in less-than-optimal visibility and weather conditions.

Zobayan was told to follow a freeway and stay at or below 2,500 feet, according to radio traffic. The pilot didn't seem overly concerned, although, at one point, he asked air traffic controllers to provide "flight following" guidance, but is that the helicopter is too low for that radar assistance.

About four minutes later, "the pilot advised they were climbing to avoid a cloud layer," Jennifer Homendy of the National Transportation Safety Board said Monday.

It was his last message to air traffic controllers.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Paint job makes \$500K home look cartoon-like

FL NAPLES — Florida residents in an upscale community are seeing red over a paint job on a half-million-dollar home.

The home was painted in large patches of extremely bright primary colors with random splatters throughout. The home in the Il Regalo Circle Community in Naples resembles a preschool play toy or cartoon home.

Even the trees, lawn and mailbox were splattered with paint. Neighbors said the paint job got worse over the course of a week.

Jeffrey Leibman, 40, is listed as the owner of the home, according to property appraiser records. Neighbors said he painted it, but the management company for the neighborhood said he no longer lives there.

Police: 3 teens stole \$10K in items from store

CT NAUGATUCK — Police in a Connecticut town are seeking three suspects who they said stole thousands of dollars of merchandise from a cellphone store.

Naugatuck police said the three young men entered a T-Mobile store at about 3:30 p.m., smashed open a display case and grabbed about \$10,000 worth of items.

No injuries were reported. The suspects are described as in their teens and ranging from 5 feet 10 inches to 6 feet in height.

Trooper: Driver fell asleep, injured 9

NC CHARLOTTE — A North Carolina driver fell asleep at the wheel and caused one of an interstate highway injuring herself, two other adults and six children, authorities said.

No one in the vehicle was wearing proper restraints, including the children ranging from 4 months to 10 years old, State Highway Patrol Trooper Ray Pierce told news outlets. An 8-month-old baby was being held by an adult in the front seat, he said.

All nine people remained hospitalized with serious injuries, Pierce said. Three children's injuries were life-threatening, he said.

Driver Shontayla Smith Barber told troopers she fell asleep at the wheel. Her SUV veered off the right shoulder, Pierce said. The SUV overturned after hitting the dirt embankment.

Large sewage spill prompts alert

WA BREMERTON — A large sewage spill in Bremerton prompted a warning for people to stay out of Sinclair Inlet and the Port Washington Narrows until Wednesday.

Just over 82,000 gallons spilled from Bremerton Public Works, prompting the no-contact advisory, KOMO-TV reported.

Not that it's swimming weather, but Kitap Public Health said to avoid swimming, wading or



DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD, TAMPA BAY (FLA.) TIMES/AP

Gasparilla Invasion

Bryan Frame, of Apollo Beach, Fla., attends the 133rd Gasparilla Invasion and Parade of the Pirates presented by Ye Mystic Krewe of Gasparilla on Saturday in downtown Tampa, Fla.

water recreation activities on the affected waterways. If exposed to the water, wash immediately with soap and water.

In addition, shellfish harvesting should be considered off-limits, health officials said.

Home filled with replica military explosives

CA STOCKTON — Hundreds of military explosive devices found at a California home were replicas, experts determined.

Twenty homes were evacuated for nearly 24 hours after Stockton police officers found the explosives when they went to the home to check on a 70-year-old man who reportedly died of natural causes, police said.

An ordinance disposal team from Travis Air Force Base was called to help deal with the devices and announced that they were non-explosive replicas, KCRA-TV reported.

Man fined for killing endangered sawfish

FL ST. AUGUSTINE — A Florida commercial fisherman has been sentenced to 80 hours of community service and fined \$2,000 for cutting the bill off an endangered smalltooth sawfish and then releasing it back into the Atlantic Ocean.

A St. Johns County judge sentenced Chad Ponce, 38, last month after he pleaded guilty to charges of killing an endangered species, according to a National Marine

THE CENSUS

34K

The number of chickens that were killed during two fires at separate poultry farms in North Carolina and Virginia. A fire in Virginia killed an estimated 24,000 chickens at about 3:30 p.m. on Friday, Joe Mullins with Rockingham County Fire and Rescue told WHSV-TV.

Approximately 10,000 chickens were killed in a blaze at a poultry house in North Carolina just one day prior, Chief M. Dale Couch of the Forbush Volunteer Fire Department told McClatchy News.

Fisheries Service news release. Ponce also faces two years of probation.

Witnesses told officials that Ponce first attempted to use a hacksaw on the animal's bill, known as a rostrum, but was unsuccessful. He then used a power saw to cut the rostrum off the live fish.

Hundreds attend first free language class

HI HONOLULU — More than 300 students, professors and others have attended the first free Hawaiian language class offered on the University of Hawaii Manoa campus on Oahu, student leaders said.

Student government leader Raiyan Rafid helped organize the first of 15 free weekly noncredit classes aimed at preserving the Hawaiian language, Hawaii News Now reported.

"This is really a great feeling for me because we thought that there was going to be like 20 to 30 people," said Rafid, Associated Students of the University of Hawaii at Manoa vice president.

Bills seek to protect kids' lemonade stands

WA OLYMPIA — Local governments would be prohibited from interfering with kids who want to set up lemonade stands under bills being considered in the Washington House and Senate.

Republican state Rep. Luanne Van Werven, sponsor of the House bill, said one of her constituents brought the issue of lemonade stand regulations to her attention.

The Northwest News Network reported that her measure, which received a public hearing, would block local governments from regulating the occasional sale of nonalcoholic, beverages, like lemonade, by anyone under 18 as long as the stand is on private property.

Police warn of scam using their number

DE DOVER — State police in Delaware are warning of a phone scam in which someone is spoofing their

number.

Delaware State Police said in a statement that victims are receiving phone calls from a Delaware State Police issued phone number.

Recipients of the phone calls are then told that a family member has been in an accident and needs money wired to them because they are injured, or to pay a traffic ticket or bail.

A state police spokesman said investigators are trying to determine the origin of the calls, which have been received by scores of residents in Delaware and 19 other states.

Tribal nation studying marijuana industry

OK TAHLEQUAH — The Cherokee Nation plans to create a working group to study how the tribe might get involved in the burgeoning hemp and cannabis industries.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. appointed the seven-member committee and asked the group to develop its recommendations by May 31.

The Tablequah-based Native American tribe is the largest in the U.S.

"I believe there are opportunities for the Cherokee Nation, our businesses and our citizens to benefit from this emerging industry," Hoskin said. "But, we need to move forward carefully and responsibly and in absolute strict adherence to the law in order to ensure success and sustainability."

From wire reports

WORLD

Hong Kong cutting all rail links to China

Associated Press

BEIJING — Hong Kong said Tuesday it will cut all rail links to mainland China as the United States and other governments prepared to evacuate citizens from the Chinese city at the center of a virus outbreak that has now killed more than 100 people.

Wearing a green surgical mask, Hong Kong leader Carrie Lam told a news conference that train service would stop at midnight Thursday and that the two stations connecting to the mainland would be closed.

She stopped short of a total closing of the border, as North Korea and Mongolia have done, but said that flights from the mainland would be reduced.

China's death toll from the new viral disease rose to 106, including the first death in Beijing, the Chinese capital, and 24 others in Hubei province, where the first illnesses were detected in December.

Asian stock markets tumbled for a second day, dragged down by worries about the virus's global economic impact.

The U.S. Consulate in the central Chinese city of Wuhan, where authorities cut off most access Jan. 22 in an effort to contain the disease, was preparing to fly its diplomats and some other Americans out of the city on Wednesday. Japan and South Korea said they would send planes to Wuhan this week to evacuate their citizens. France, Mongolia and other governments also planned evacuations.

U.S. health officials expanded their recommendation for people to avoid nonessential travel to any part of China, rather than just Wuhan and other areas most affected by the outbreak.

China's increasingly drastic containment efforts began with the suspension of plane, train and bus links to Wuhan, a city of 11 million people. That lockdown has expanded to 17 cities with more than 50 million people in the most far-reaching disease-control measures ever imposed.

There were 1,771 new cases confirmed in China on Monday, raising the national total to 4,515, according to the National Health Commission. It said 976 people were in serious condition.

The government has sent 6,000 extra medical workers to Wuhan from across China, including 1,800 who were due to arrive Tuesday, a commission official, Jiao Yahui, said at a news conference.

A baby boy was delivered by surgery in Wuhan after his 27-year-old mother was hospitalized as a "highly suspected" virus case, state TV reported. The mother, who has a fever and cough, was 37 weeks pregnant, or two weeks less than a standard full term.

Doctors wore protective masks and clothing for the delivery Friday at Union Hospital.

"It was unlikely for her to be able to give natural birth," said the hospital's deputy director of obstetrics, Zhao Yin. "After the baby was born, the mother would suffer less pressure in her lungs and she could get better treatment."

In Beijing, residents of two villages in the capital's eastern Pinggu district were refusing to allow outsiders to enter in an effort to avoid the virus.

"The village has been locked down," a member of the Beitumen village committee who would give only his surname, Guo, said by telephone. He said villagers are allowed to go out to buy daily necessities.

Another village, Jingyu, imposed similar restrictions, said a member of the local committee who wouldn't give his name.

The Education Ministry canceled English proficiency and other tests for students to apply to foreign universities. The ministry said the new semester for public schools and universities following Lunar New Year was postponed until further notice.

Hong Kong announced postal services and most government offices would stay closed through at least next week.



VINCENT YU/AP

Passengers wearing protective face masks arrive Tuesday at the high-speed train station in Hong Kong.

Drugmakers hunt for ways to halt virus

Bloomberg

Drugmakers are racing to find medicines that can curb the spread of the coronavirus as the infection bypasses China's travel restrictions.

Pharmaceutical companies from Gilead Sciences to Moderna are pursuing two main strategies: helping to re-purpose medicines developed against other lethal viruses from Ebola to HIV, and relying on new technologies to develop a vaccine faster than ever before.

Deaths in China climbed to more than 100 as the country announced new measures, including an extension of the Lunar New Year holiday. Chinese authorities said the new respiratory virus isn't under control despite aggressive steps to limit move-

ment for millions of people who live in cities near the center of the outbreak.

Gilead's experimental Ebola treatment remdesivir is being studied to determine whether it can combat the coronavirus — a member of a family of crown-shaped viruses that includes SARS as well as some forms of the common cold. The company said by email that it's coordinating with researchers and clinicians in the U.S. and China.

Meanwhile, doctors in China have started using a combination of AbbVie's HIV drugs ritonavir and lopinavir at hospitals. A clinical trial is assessing whether the combination, sold under the brand name Kaletra, is more effective than an antiviral medicine known as interferon-alpha 2b in treating patients.

The use of existing drugs for a new virus, especially one whose patterns aren't well known, is entirely experimental, and there is no guarantee of success.

A smaller company, Vir Biotechnology Inc., is also evaluating whether some of its previously developed monoclonal antibodies — proteins grown from living cells that can be used to neutralize pathogens — can be used against the coronavirus strain.

Scientists are still learning about the virus. The effort to track it and understand it is complicated by a stealthy incubation period of up to two weeks — during which time the infected person may have no symptoms but still be contagious — as well as the challenge of identifying those with such mild cases they don't realize they are ill.

Netanyahu pulls request for immunity

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu withdrew his request for immunity from prosecution on Tuesday, hours before parliamentary proceedings on the subject were set to begin.

Netanyahu, who was visiting Washington ahead of the launch of President Donald Trump's long-anticipated peace plan, said he "decided not to let this dirty game continue," in a statement issued on his official Facebook page.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, was set to convene to discuss the formation of a committee to debate the prime minister's im-

munity request. It was still expected to meet even after the withdrawal.

The Knesset was widely expected to reject Netanyahu's immunity request, which would have dealt a massive blow to the prime minister ahead of the March 2 parliamentary elections — the third in less than a year. Netanyahu's Likud party was planning to boycott Tuesday's Knesset session.

Netanyahu's retraction paves the way for legal proceedings against him to go forward. He was indicted on counts of fraud, breach of trust and bribery in November in three separate cases.

He has denied any wrongdoing.

"In this fateful hour for the people of Israel, when I am in the United States on a historic mission to design the permanent borders of Israel and ensure our security for decades to come, the Knesset is expected to start another spectacle in the circus of removing immunity," Netanyahu wrote.

Netanyahu's chief political opponent, Benny Gantz, who leads the Blue and White party, said in a statement that "Netanyahu is going to trial — we must go forward."

"Nobody could run a country and simultaneously manage three serious criminal charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust," Gantz added.

Market attack kills at least 30 in northern Burkina Faso

Associated Press

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso — Suspected Islamic extremists attacked a busy market in Burkina Faso and killed more than 30 people over the weekend, authorities said, as the West African country's security situation deteriorates.

The death toll could be as high as 50, Burkina Faso's national television reported Monday evening. It was the second attack in northern Burkina Faso in a week that has left dozens dead.

Meanwhile, the Norwegian Refugee Council warned that as many as 900,000 people could be displaced in the country by

April, up from current estimates of 560,000.

Information about the latest violence in Sillagidi in Soum province was difficult to obtain because the jihadist reportedly disabled the local phone network before the massacre near the country's troubled border with Mali.

Days earlier, militants killed 36 civilians in a marketplace in neighboring Sanmatenga province.

Extremist attacks are dramatically escalating in Burkina Faso, with deaths rising from about 80 in 2016 to over 1,800 in 2019, according to the United Nations.

WORLD

Planned Brexit celebration divides Britons

By JILL LAWLESS
Associated Press

LONDON — As the United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union on Friday, people are divided over how to mark a historic moment that some are relishing but others are dreading.

Britain's 2016 referendum on EU membership split the country: 52% opted to leave the 28-nation bloc, 48% voted to remain. The intervening years of political wrangling over the departure terms have not healed the divide.

For pro-Europeans, departure on Jan. 31 at 11 p.m. will be the melancholy moment that Britain abandons a project that brought once-warring nations together, created a vast free-trading zone of half a billion people and let Europeans study, work and live across the continent.

For Brexit supporters, it will be the instant the U.K. once again becomes a sovereign nation after 47 years of membership in the bloated, bureaucratic EU club.

"It's a momentous occasion," said Brexit Party chairman Richard Tice, who plans to join party leader Nigel Farage and thou-

sands of supporters for a party outside Parliament on Friday night. "It's a great celebration of the democratic will. And it's right to celebrate it."

Tony Greaves, a Liberal Democrat member of the House of Lords, warned colleagues that many people — especially the more than 3 million citizens of other EU countries who live in Britain — feel a sense of loss "akin to bereavement" about Brexit.

"A lot of people will not be celebrating. They'll be feeling very sad and very glum," he said. "People are saying we want to bring the country together now after the division. This is the last possible way to do it."

Prime Minister Boris Johnson's Conservative government must balance its own enthusiasm for Brexit with the knowledge that about half of the country opposes the decision to walk away from the EU.

The prime minister is scheduled to make a televised address on Friday evening, stressing unity and the healing of divisions. As 11 p.m. approaches, government buildings will be lit up and a countdown clock projected onto



KIRSTY WIGGLESWORTH/AP

The European Union flag, right, and Britain's Union Jack flag hang above the European Parliament Liaison Office in London. The United Kingdom is set to leave the EU on Friday evening.

the black bricks of the prime minister's 10 Downing St. residence.

Historian Margaret MacMillan urged the government to avoid a tone of triumphalism. She said that if there was ever a time for British understatement, this is it.

"It is not a time for celebration. It is a time for reconciliation," said MacMillan, a University of Toronto professor whose books include "Dangerous Games: The Uses and Abuses of History."

"If the prime minister really

wanted to be prime ministerial, he could say, 'Look, we've had a long, difficult disagreement, but let's sit down and be friends again,' and just have a tea party or something," she said. "I think low-key is better."

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The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

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FACES

By JAKE COYLE
Associated Press

Lin-Manuel Miranda knows that, for some, the story of his life is already written.

"If I can put it absolutely morbidly, I know that 'Hamilton' is the first line in my obituary," Miranda says with an unusually chipper tone for someone contemplating their death. "Like, good! Done! I know nothing will ever be 'Hamilton' again, and I'm fine with that. I think artists start to go off the rails when they try to chase that again and again."

A pair of new documentaries premiering at the Sundance Film Festival this week capture a wider view of Miranda's life through some of the people who have been most foundational to him. "Siempre, Luis" is a profile of his father, the tireless Puerto Rico advocate Luis Miranda. "We Are Freestyle Love Supreme" documents the improvised hip-hop show that Miranda and several of his "Hamilton" collaborators regularly put on before "In the Heights" altered Miranda's trajectory, and which they recently reformed on Broadway.

"Life's not a linear narrative. It's not this and this and this ascent. It's all these side journeys," Miranda says in "We Are Freestyle Love Supreme." "Life gets complicated and you keep going. There's no end point. What's that Orson Welles quote? If you want to tell a story with a happy ending, it depends on where you end the story."

Both films are, in a way, origin stories for the 40-year-old Miranda. But they are also stories that take some of the megawatt spotlight trust on him by "Hamilton" and deflects it onto those around him.

"My son is the most collaborative human being that I know," says the elder Miranda. "From sharing the Kennedy Center award with his other collaborators to making sure that everyone who did something important to him and accomplish that next goal gets accounted for and acknowledged. I understand why. I have a wonderful wife of 42 years who is exactly like that. It's part of his DNA."



INVISION/AP

Origin stories

New Lin-Manuel Miranda documentaries highlight father, pre-'Hamilton' hip-hop show

"Siempre, Luis," directed by John James, is a profile of Luis Miranda, the longtime New York political player. It took some time for Luis to get accustomed to the cameras being focused on him.

"I've spent all my life promoting a cause, an organization, elected officials, Lin-Manuel Miranda. So to all of a sudden be promoting myself is not a role I've had all my life. I was always pushing something,

"When I'm playing Hamilton, I'm playing my dad," says actor Lin-Manuel Miranda, left, photographed with his father, Luis A. Miranda, Jan. 25. The Mirandas are promoting a documentary called "Siempre, Luis," a profile of the father, at the Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah.

never being the center of attention. But I'll tell you, though, it feels good! It's like a narcissist's dream."

The film also depicts when son and father a year ago mounted "Hamilton" in Puerto Rico. For Lin-Manuel, Alexander Hamilton reminded him of his father, both immigrants who settled in New York.

"Anyone who's seen 'Hamilton' and wonders 'How much is this like its author' will see my dad and go, 'Oh, I get it now. He's playing his dad,'" says Lin-Manuel. "I saw in the sheer tonnage of what Hamilton accomplished in his lifetime — he pushed through the Federalist Papers while also running a law practice — and it reminded me of my father. When I'm playing Hamilton, I'm playing my dad."

Sometimes, Luis reminds his son almost too much of the fiery founding father. "I've had moments with him where he's about to very curtly respond to an email and I go, 'Dad, don't go Hamilton on them,'" says Lin-Manuel.

Andrew Fried's "We Are Freestyle Love Supreme" traces the roots of many of the primary forces involved in "Hamilton," including director Thomas Kail and actor Christopher Jackson, who originated the role of George Washington.

As seen in the film, the members "Freestyle Love Supreme" reunited for a successful Broadway run of the show they used to perform in the basement of New York's Drama Bookshop.

"It's been our go-to. It's been a part of all our lives," says Lin-Manuel. "For me, creatively it's the muscle groups that make everything I like stronger. You can't indulge in writer's block if you're also getting on stage and creating a 90-minute musical with your friends."

Gomez claims she suffered emotional abuse from Bieber

By CHRISTI CARRAS
Los Angeles Times

While promoting her latest album, "Rare," Selena Gomez opened up about her past relationship with Justin Bieber, during which the singer and actress said she suffered emotional abuse.

Speaking with NPR on Sunday, Gomez explained how her new single, "Lose You to Love Me," helped her process and move on from the "difficult" experience she had while seeing the "Yummy" artist. Gomez and Bieber were first linked publicly in 2011 and dated on and off until their final split in 2018.

"It's dangerous to stay in a victim mentality," Gomez said. "And I'm not being disrespectful. I do feel I was a victim to certain abuse."

When asked if she was referring to emotional abuse, the "Bad Liar" hitmaker said, "Yes," and then elaborated — "despite noting that she didn't want to "spend the rest of (her) life talking about" her past with Bieber, who married model Hailey Baldwin in 2018.

"I had to find a way to understand it as an adult, and I had to understand the choices I was making as a woman said, 'I am really proud that I can say I feel the

strongest I've ever felt and I've found a way to just walk through it with as much grace as possible."

Reps for Bieber did not immediately respond to The Times' request for comment.

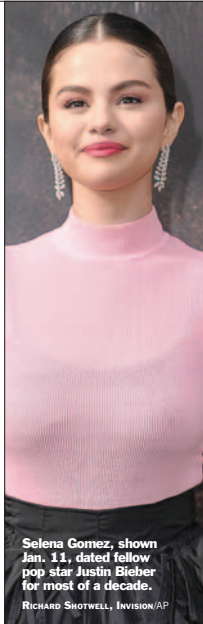
Upon the October release of the emotional "Lose You to Love Me," Gomez pleaded with fans on social media to "be kind." Many assumed she was indirectly defending Bieber's wife, who received some hate online when the track dropped.

"It's not a hateful song: it's a song that is saying — I had something beautiful and I would never deny that it wasn't that," Gomez said. "It was very difficult and I'm happy it's over. And I feel like this was a great way to just let it be done, and I understand that, and I respect that."

Gomez also reflected on her health issues, which have included depression, a kidney transplant and an ongoing battle with the autoimmune disease lupus.

"I want to be able to tell my story the way that I want to tell it," she said, calling attention to sensationalized media coverage. "I wasn't going to pretend to put a smile on when it actually was awful — a few of the worst moments of my life. ... I just had to find a way to claim my story."

"Rare" is now available.



Selena Gomez, shown Jan. 11, dated fellow pop star Justin Bieber for most of a decade.

RICHARD SHOTWELL, INVISION/AP

'Bad Boys,' '1917' the top box office films

"Boys" trumped "Gentlemen" in movie theaters the weekend as Will Smith and Martin Lawrence's "Bad Boys for Life" easily remained the top ticket seller over newcomer "The Gentlemen."

The third "Bad Boys" film, coming 17 years after "Bad Boys II," sold \$34 million in tickets in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. The R-rated action comedy has grossed \$120.6 million in two weeks domestically.

Second place went to Sam Mendes' "1917," which added theaters in its fifth week of release to keep pace with its Academy Awards momentum. The film grossed \$15.8 million over the weekend to bring its North American total to \$103.9 million. Worldwide, it's taken in \$200.5 million.

It was a good weekend for "1917." On Jan. 25, Mendes took the top prize at the Directors Guild Awards, solidifying the World War I tale as the clear Oscar frontrunner and Mendes as the favorite for best director.

The weekend's top new release was Guy Ritchie's star-studded gangster film "The Gentlemen." The film made \$11 million.

The horror film "The Turning" collected \$7.3 million in its debut weekend.

Author deletes book co-written with Bryant

Kobe Bryant and Brazilian writer Paulo Coelho were working together on a children's book, but the author of "The Alchemist" said he deleted the draft after Bryant's death Sunday in a helicopter crash.

The novelist told The Associated Press on Monday that the two men started discussing the project in 2016, when the five-time NBA champion retired after a 20-year career. They began writing a few months ago.

Within hours of hearing of Bryant's death, Coelho, 72, announced that he would delete the draft.

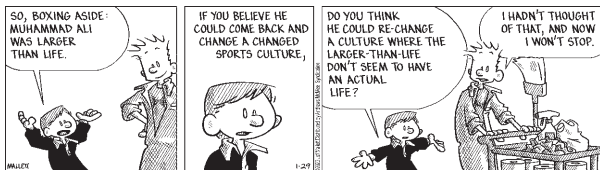
"I deleted the draft because it didn't make any sense to publish without him," Coelho said Monday. "It wouldn't add anything relevant to him or his family. "That doesn't stop me from writing someday about things I learned from Kobe and how much of a larger-than-life person he was," Coelho said. "But the children's book did not make sense anymore."

Coelho's decision disappointed many of Bryant's fans, who flooded the writer's social media channels asking for the draft not to be erased.

Bryant was a fan of Coelho's and called "The Alchemist" his favorite book.

From The Associated Press

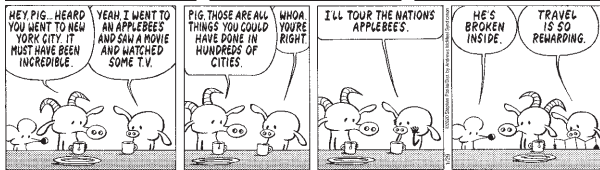
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Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



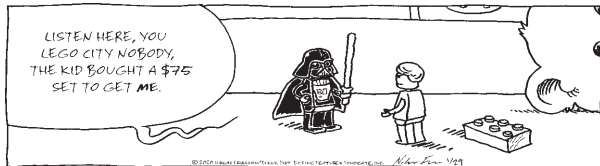
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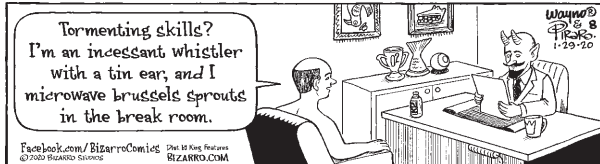
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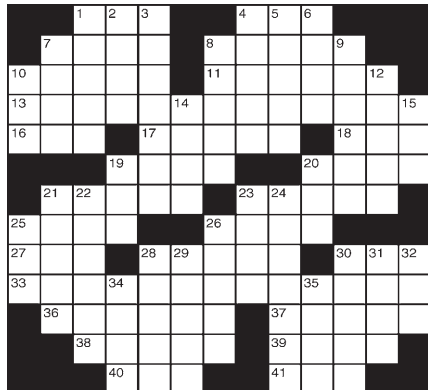
Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



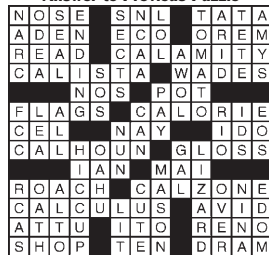
ACROSS

- 1 Apr. addressee
- 4 Mouth part
- 7 Mailbox feature
- 8 Emanations
- 10 Hotel offering
- 11 Jackson of "A Touch of Class"
- 13 War-ending pacts
- 16 Do sums
- 17 Gets ready, briefly
- 18 Aunt, in Acapulco
- 19 Out of the storm
- 20 Hen pen
- 21 Curses
- 23 India's first prime minister
- 25 Houston acronym
- 26 Emmy-winning actress Daly
- 27 Nile reptile
- 28 Vinegar bottle
- 30 Fourth-yr. students
- 33 One's share, as in a fortune
- 36 Carve, as a statue
- 37 Labor group
- 38 Kilmer poem

DOWN

- 39 Poses
- 40 Ten fractions (Abbr.)
- 41 Asner and Harris
- 15 Enervate
- 19 Literary collection
- 20 "Evita" narrator
- 21 Foundation
- 22 Phase
- 23 Russian refusal
- 24 Get excited
- 25 Snooze
- 26 Clumps of grass
- 28 VIP on the red carpet
- 29 Lassos
- 30 Barbecue rods
- 31 Ocho —, Jamaica
- 32 Capitol VIP
- 34 Ringlet
- 35 Wife of Geraint

Answer to Previous Puzzle



1-29

CRYPTOQUIP

ENX G R Y P Q S R T X Y O Y O O Y R
N Y Z Y P X B Q L V T S A A S R X B E
Q V S K E , T L K E G L R K T N X Z L Q Q

T L O X L E E X V - O X R L B .

Yesterday's Cryptquip: IF SOMEBODY IS WEARING A CHOKER TOO TIGHTLY, WOULD THEY BE GUILTY OF NECKLACE ENDANGERMENT?

Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals P

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Ernie Gates

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OPINION

The China coronavirus will test the US, too

By TYLER COWEN

Bloomberg Opinion

As the Wuhan coronavirus spreads to America, it now seems quite possible the United States will face some considerable logistical challenges. Even if the virus turns out not to be very deadly, or mutates into a safer form, the public will not know that for some time. In the meantime, a mix of justifiable risk-aversion and perhaps panic will strain U.S. institutions. It is worth thinking through what some of the major problems might be.

First, most emergency rooms are not equipped to handle a very high volume of cases, especially infectious diseases. It is not just a lack of beds and medical personnel. Imagine an emergency room crowded with people who had fever symptoms, whether from the coronavirus or not. Then imagine you injure yourself in some other manner and require immediate medical attention. How comfortable would you feel waiting in that room?

The general economic problem is that emergency rooms typically are not equipped with full surge capacity, nor are there enough emergency room add-ons or substitutes available on very short notice. Usually when there is a shortage, economists recommend raising the price to equilibrate supply and demand. Doing so in this case would be prevented by a mix of hospital regulation, anti-price gouging laws, and the public's views on what is fair in times of crisis. If the virus gains any purchase in the U.S. at all, medical-care shortages are likely.

The good news is that most hospitals and emergency rooms do have contingency plans for such occurrences. The bad news (looking forward, though it is good news looking backward) is that those plans are largely untested by recent experience.

The first problem the U.S. is likely to face is one of risk communication. If you tell people how terrible things are, they feel a loss of control.

Very often, when a pandemic breaks out, talk turns to macro remedies such as air travel bans and quarantines, as China is instituting. Yet often the more important factor is the strength, resilience and flexibility of local public health institutions, and those qualities cannot be created overnight. Just as the Chinese health care system is undergoing a major test right now, there is a good chance that the U.S. will too.

An additional test could concern child care and telecommuting. Will U.S. schools need to be shut? At the very least it is something officials should have been planning for. Even if schools are not closed, some number of parents will keep their children at home, whether out of rational fear or not. Anti-vaccine sentiment is fairly high and rising, after all, and even the wisest parents will prefer to be safe than sorry.

Keeping one's children at home means that fewer people will go to work. Even those with external child care options, such as day care, may be reluctant to leave their children outside the home for the same reasons as leaving the schools. The new question then becomes how robust are work plans, and U.S. supply chains, to a higher than usual rate of workplace absenteeism. There also may be an especially high level in China, which could strain U.S. and other supply chains relying on Chinese

products. Many businesses may need to amend their plans on the fly.

Once again, pandemic preparation is about the flexibility of decentralized institutions. These are not problems that can be solved by top-down planning and control, they rely on long-standing institutional capacities, high levels of social trust and improvisational skill.

If and when a good vaccine becomes available for the virus, that will again be about the improvisation and flexibility that will allow for scalability and eventual production and distribution. It is usually difficult to solve such problems quickly, but still there is better and worse performance — and that can make a big difference.

The very first problem the U.S. is likely to face is one of risk communication. Of course the correct message will depend on how the data evolve, but in general there is tension between warnings that get people to take notice, and those that scare them underground or into counterproductive forms of panic.

If you tell people how terrible things are, they feel a loss of control. Many will retreat into complacency and eventual mistrust of health care institutions, or withdraw altogether from social or professional activity. Those who are sick may be afraid to seek medical attention, of having their movements constrained, driving the disease further underground and distorting the data. Again, trust is of paramount importance.

For all the talk about the U.S. having evolved into a more polarized, lower-trust society, I am optimistic about its on-the-ground capabilities on these issues. Yes, they fall short of ideal — but with any luck, we will never find out how far.

Tyler Cowen is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of economics at George Mason University and the author of "Big Business: A Love Letter to an American Anti-Hero."

The age of not waiting on naming a running mate

By MATT BAI

Special to The Washington Post

This month, after Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren had that "Marriage Story" moment on their way off the debate stage in Iowa, some of Sanders' aides apparently tried to control the fallout. They told Ryan Grim of the Intercept that the campaign had recently been advised by the White House that Warren could legally serve as Sanders' vice president and treasury secretary at the same time.

The story included a stock denial by Sanders' campaign manager, Faiz Shakir, who said, "No conversations are happening about any positions in a potential Sanders administration."

If that's true, it shouldn't be. Not only should Sanders be talking with advisers about possible running mates, but we ought to demand that he also make those names public before the voting starts in a few weeks.

And by the way, he's not the only one.

We've never really thought too hard about vice presidential picks before a nominee was crowned, and we haven't really had much reason to. It's been more than 50 years — before a lot of us were born — since a president died in office.

Most of the time, the candidates have been young and hale enough to render the prospect of, say, a President Dan Quayle relatively low-risk. And for the most part, there's been a general consensus that vice presidents should at least be minimally qualified and within the mainstream of their parties.

Things have changed, though. The boomers have decided they should contin-

ue to occupy the presidency until they can be cryogenically frozen and restored to power at regular intervals. Sanders, who's supposed to state policy, would be 79 when he took the oath of office. He's not quite four months removed from a heart attack that we still know basically nothing about.

I really can't explain why my colleagues moderating all these debates haven't asked about this issue more forcefully — or at all. I was a young reporter covering Bill Bradley in 1999 when his history of heart arrhythmia became public. Bradley was 56 and a former pro athlete, and from the response of the media, you would have thought he had 12 minutes to live.

Hillary Clinton fainted once in 2016, and we nearly held a funeral.

Sanders, meanwhile, has a full-on heart attack that he keeps to himself for three days, then conveniently forgets about a promise to release his medical records, and somehow it's impolite to raise the subject.

Well, OK, but you don't have to be a cardiologist to surmise that Sanders' chances of surviving the presidency would be lower, statistically, than those of any of his recent predecessors.

All of which might be less of a concern if we were confident that Sanders would choose a broadly acceptable understudy. But just as we've never seen a field this old, we've also never seen Democratic front-runners as ideologically uncompromising as Sanders and Warren.

Would Sanders fire up his socialist base by choosing someone like Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, D-N.Y. (sorry, it can't actually be her, she's too young), who avows that the United States has no left-of-center

party, because no left-of-center party would tolerate Joe Biden? That's not a place from which anyone can actually govern.

And if you think establishment Democrats are going to rise up and tear apart a convention on national TV because they object to a perilous and inexperienced vice presidential pick, then I've got two words for you: Sarah Palin.

Modern conventions are like the post office. You wait in line forever, and then they run the campaign through in front of them and send you on your way.

Sanders isn't the only candidate who ought to at least release a short list of possible running mates now. Biden (age 77) and Warren (age 70) should, too. If 75 is the new 60, and elections now are going to be about gaining up momentum rather than convincing anyone of anything, then we need to know who stands to inherit that office before we go around casting votes.

But this applies mostly to Sanders, because he's rolling right now, and because he has already been evasive about his running mate. He's been saying that Mr. Up Front and Authentic. It's about us and not him, remember?

And so the next time Sanders steps onto a debate stage, on Feb. 7, someone should ask him this: "In light of your age and very recent heart attack, would you please name for us three potential vice-presidential candidates you would consider should you become the nominee?"

And if the answer is, "I haven't thought about any of that yet," then maybe Sanders isn't thinking about us after all.

Matt Bai, a Washington Post contributing columnist, is a nationally known journalist, author and screenwriter.

STARS AND STRIPES

Sports

on AFN

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Pro football

NFL playoffs

Wild-card playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
 Houston 22, Buffalo 19, OT
 Tennessee 20, New England 13
Sunday, Jan. 10
 Minnesota 26, New Orleans 20, OT
 Seattle 17, Philadelphia 3

Divisional playoffs
Saturday, Jan. 9
 San Francisco 27, Minnesota 10
 Tennessee 28, Baltimore 12
Sunday, Jan. 10
 Kansas City 41, Houston 31
 Green Bay 28, Seattle 22

Conference Championships
Sunday, Jan. 10
 AFC: Kansas City 35, Tennessee 24
 NFC: San Francisco 37, Green Bay 20

Pro Bowl
Sunday, Jan. 26
 at Orlando, Fla.
Super Bowl
Sunday, Feb. 2
 at Miami Gardens, Fla.
 Kansas City vs. San Francisco

College hockey

NCAA Division I poll

MINNEAPOLIS — The top 20 teams in the NCAA Division I men's ice hockey poll, compiled by U.S. College Hockey Online, with first-place votes in parentheses, followed through Jan. 26 and are previous ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Cornell (40)	1-1-1	958
2. North Dakota (8)	2-3-3	946
3. Minnesota State (2)	2-2-2	932
4. Denver	17-4-5	874
5. Michigan College	12-3-2	752
6. Clarkson	17-6-2	716
7. UMass	16-8-2	671
8. Penn State	17-4-2	623
9. Providence	14-6-8	604
10. Michigan State	13-9-3	593
11. Ohio State	15-8-3	584
12. Arizona State	14-4-1	513
13. Northeastern	13-7-2	375
14. UMass Lowell	13-3-3	352
15. Northern Michigan	14-8-1	338
16. Harvard	9-6-4	161
17. Michigan State	14-9-1	127
18. Quinnipiac	14-9-1	127
20. Sacred Heart	16-8-2	83

Others receiving votes: New Hampshire 1st, Bowling Green 7th, Dartmouth 28th, Western Michigan 33rd, Maine 21st, Notre Dame 14th, Michigan 6th, Minnesota 6th, Boston University 5th, Army 5th, Omaha 4th, Michigan State 1st, RIT 1st.

Deals

Monday's transactions

BASEBALL
NATIONAL LEAGUE
CINCINNATI REDS — Signed Of Nick Castellanos to a four-year contract.
MIAMI MARLINS — Agreed to terms with free-agent Brandon Kintzler on a one-year contract.

PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Traded Of Starling Marte and cash to Arizona for SS Liover Pego, RHP Brennan Malone and international signing money.

FOOTBALL
NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE
MINNESOTA VIKINGS — Promoted linebackers coach Adam Zimmer and defensive line coach Andre Carter to co-defensive coordinators, in addition to their current duties. Named Eric Kubiak offensive coordinator, in addition to his current duties as assistant head coach. Named Phil Rauscher assistant offensive line coach. Reassigned Andrew Janocko to wide receivers coach.

HOCKEY
NATIONAL HOCKEY LEAGUE
ARIZONA COYOTES — Recalled G Adin Hellekar from AHL.
COLUMBUS CREW — Signed F Eric Robinson to a two-year contract extension.

TAMPA BAY LIGHTNING — Recalled F Mitchell Stephens and D Luke Schenn from AHL to AHL.

SOCCER
Major League Soccer
CINCINNATI — Exercised its offseason buyout of F Fannendo Aki's guaranteed contract.

NEW YORK RED BULLS named Carl Koppe to head coach.
VANCOUVER WHITESAPES — Acquired W Dwayne McKelvey from Vancouver from Hull City (Finnish Hockey-England).

National Women's Soccer League
 Wendie Renard — Agreed to terms with M Nahomi Kawasumi on a one-year contract.

College basketball

AP Men's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Baylor (44)	17-1	1,578
2. Gonzaga (19)	21-1	1,552
3. Kansas (17)	16-3	1,434
4. San Diego State	12-0	1,408
5. Florida St.	17-2	1,318
6. Louisville	17-3	1,277
7. Seattle	12-1	1,161
8. Villanova	16-3	1,110
9. Duke	17-3	1,084
10. Seton Hall	14-1	1,053
11. Oregon	17-4	926
12. West Virginia	16-5	874
13. Kentucky	15-6	839
14. Michigan St.	15-5	754
15. Maryland	14-6	650
16. Butler	16-4	631
17. Auburn	12-2	619
18. Iowa	14-5	545
19. Illinois	15-5	483
20. Colorado	16-4	313
21. Houston	16-4	296
22. LSU	15-4	260
23. Wichita St.	17-3	161
24. Penn St.	15-4	114

Others receiving votes: Oregon 56th, Arizona 55th, Texas Tech 33rd, Ohio St. 16th, Indiana 15th, ESU 14th, N. Iowa 13th, Memphis 11th, Southern Cal 3rd, Rhode Island 6th, Purdue 6th, Florida 4th, Arkansas 3rd, Saint Mary's 2nd, Gonz. 3rd, SMU 3rd, Wisconsin 1st, Akron 1st, Harvard 1st.

Monday's men's scores

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. Cornell (40)	1-1-1	958
2. North Dakota (8)	2-3-3	946
3. Minnesota State (2)	2-2-2	932
4. Denver	17-4-5	874
5. Michigan College	12-3-2	752
6. Clarkson	17-6-2	716
7. UMass	16-8-2	671
8. Penn State	17-4-2	623
9. Providence	14-6-8	604
10. Michigan State	13-9-3	593
11. Ohio State	15-8-3	584
12. Arizona State	14-4-1	513
13. Northeastern	13-7-2	375
14. UMass Lowell	13-3-3	352
15. Northern Michigan	14-8-1	338
16. Harvard	9-6-4	161
17. Michigan State	14-9-1	127
18. Quinnipiac	14-9-1	127
20. Sacred Heart	16-8-2	83

Others receiving votes: New Hampshire 1st, Bowling Green 7th, Dartmouth 28th, Western Michigan 33rd, Maine 21st, Notre Dame 14th, Michigan 6th, Minnesota 6th, Boston University 5th, Army 5th, Omaha 4th, Michigan State 1st, RIT 1st.

AP Men's Top 25 schedule
Wednesday's games
 No. 1 Baylor at Iowa State
 No. 4 San Diego State at New Mexico
 No. 6 Louisville at Boston College
 No. 7 Dayton at Duquesne
 No. 10 Seton Hall vs. DePaul
 No. 12 West Virginia at Ohio Tech
 No. 13 Kentucky vs. Vanderbilt
 No. 14 Michigan State vs. Northwestern
 No. 21 Houston at East Carolina
 No. 22 LSU vs. Alabama
 No. 23 Penn State vs. Indiana

Thursday's games
 No. 2 Gonzaga vs. Florida
 No. 11 Oregon at California
 No. 16 Maryland vs. No. 18 Iowa
 No. 19 Illinois vs. Minnesota
 No. 20 Colorado at UCLA

Friday's games
 No games scheduled

Saturday's games
 No. 1 Baylor vs. TCU
 No. 2 Gonzaga at San Francisco
 No. 3 Kansas vs. Texas Tech
 No. 4 San Diego State vs. Utah State
 No. 5 Florida State vs. Texas Tech
 No. 6 Louisville at N.C. State
 No. 7 Oregon vs. Fort Hays

Sunday's games
 No. 8 Villanova vs. Creighton at the Wells Fargo Center
 No. 9 Duke at Syracuse
 No. 10 Seton Hall vs. Xavier
 No. 11 Oregon at Stanford
 No. 12 West Virginia vs. Kansas State
 No. 13 Kentucky at No. 17 Auburn
 No. 14 Michigan State at Wisconsin
 No. 16 Butler vs. Providence
 No. 20 Colorado at Southern Cal
 No. 21 Houston at Cincinnati
 No. 22 LSU vs. Mississippi St.
 No. 23 Wichita State at Tulsa
 No. 24 Penn State at Nebraska
 No. 25 Arkansas vs. Michigan at Madison Square Garden

Sunday's game
 No. 18 Iowa vs. No. 19 Illinois

Pro baseball

MLB calendar

Feb. 4-6 — Owners meetings, Orlando, Florida.
Feb. 4-21 — Salary arbitration hearings, Phoenix.

Feb. 16 — Voluntary reporting date for pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Feb. 16 — Voluntary reporting date for other players.

Feb. 21 — Mandatory reporting date for pitchers, catchers and injured players.

Feb. 21 — Voluntary reporting date for other players.

April 18-19 — San Diego vs. Arizona at Petco Park.
April 26-27 — New York Mets vs. Miami at Sun Juan, Puerto Rico.

AP Women's Top 25

The top 25 teams in The Associated Press' women's college basketball poll, with first-place votes in parentheses, records through Jan. 26, total points based on 25 points for a first-place vote through one point for a 25th-place vote and last week's ranking:

Record	Pts	Pvs
1. South Carolina (26)	19-1	1,746
2. Baylor (3)	17-1	1,716
3. Oregon	17-2	1,671
4. UConn (3)	18-1	1,665
5. Louisville (1)	20-1	1,643
6. Stanford	18-1	1,609
7. NC State	19-1	1,552
8. Arizona	18-1	1,538
9. Mississippi St.	18-3	1,500
10. Oregon St.	19-2	1,417
11. DePaul	19-4	1,311
12. Gonzaga	20-1	1,302
13. Kentucky	15-3	1,280
14. Florida St.	17-3	1,279
15. Texas A&M	16-3	1,268
16. Arizona	16-3	1,268
17. Maryland	14-4	1,273
18. Iowa	17-3	1,240
19. South Carolina	15-2	1,129
20. Indiana	15-5	1,129
21. South Dakota	17-2	1,129
22. Tennessee	16-4	1,125
23. Northwestern	17-3	1,111
24. Missouri St.	16-3	73
25. Arkansas	16-4	56

Others receiving votes: Oregon 44th, TCU 7th, Florida Gulf Coast 7th, LSU 2nd, West Virginia 1st, Stony Brook 1st, Rutgers 1st, Texas 1st.

Monday's women's scores

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1. South Carolina (26)	19-1	1,746
2. Baylor (3)	17-1	1,716
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Monday's women's scores

Monday's women's scores

D-backs acquire Marte from Bucs

By WILL GRAVES

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — When the Arizona Diamondbacks landed ace Madison Bumgarner in free agency last month, the three-time World Series winner made a surprising offer, one that came with a very urgent catch.

Bumgarner took the Diamondbacks they could defer some of the money on his five-year deal if they promised to spend the up-front savings on making the club better in 2020.

Arizona followed through Monday, acquiring two-time Gold Glove outfielder Starling Marte from the Pittsburgh Pirates.

"He fits a lot of what we're trying to do," Diamondbacks general manager Mike Hazen.

Including free up Kettel Marte — no relation to Starling Marte — to move to second base on a semi-permanent basis. Kettel Marte split time between center field and second last year while making the All-Star team for the first time and finishing fourth in NL MVP balloting. Hazen said he likes the chemistry Kettel Marte developed with shortstop Nick Ahmed, and Starling Marte's arrival should let that relationship flourish.

"We feel like he's a Gold Glove second baseman," Hazen said.

An honor Starling Marte run twice during his eight years with the Pirates. His arrival in the majors in 2012 served as one of the final building blocks that pushed the team to three straight playoff berths from 2013-15. The go-ahead home run in the ninth inning against the Chicago Cubs on Sept. 23, 2013 pushed Pitts-

burgh to the postseason for the first time in more than two decades, and his blend of speed, athleticism and one of the strongest outfield arms in the game made him a natural fit at spacious PNC Park.

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burgh to the postseason for the first time in more than two decades, and his blend of speed, athleticism and one of the strongest outfield arms in the game made him a natural fit at spacious PNC Park.

Though the Pirates have fallen well off the pace in the NL Central over the last four years, Marte has been one of the few bright spots. The 31-year-old hit 295 in 2019, setting career highs with 23 home runs and 82 RBIs. It wasn't nearly enough, however, to help Pittsburgh avoid finishing dead last in the division, a plumm that led to a massive leadership overhaul.

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NBA

Roundup

Gordon's 50 lifts short-handed Rockets

Houston, missing Harden, Westbrook, still rolls past Utah

Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY — Eric Gordon is feeling like himself again on offense. That's bad news for Houston's opponents.

Gordon scored a career-high 50 points to lead the short-handed Rockets to a 126-117 victory over the Utah Jazz on Monday night without James Harden and Russell Westbrook.

In a stat line that resembled one Harden might put up, Gordon shot 14-for-22 from the field — including 6-for-11 on three-pointers — and 16-for-20 at the free-throw line. He became the first Rockets player besides Harden to score 50 points in a game since Hakeem Olajuwon had 51 in January 1996, according to STATS. Harden has done it 23 times since.

"I feel like I'm getting back to being myself," said Gordon, who had knee surgery in November. "I told everyone when you have surgery during the season, it's always going to be a process."

Houston needed his outburst with Harden, Westbrook and Clint Capela sitting out. The veteran guard had his first game with more than 30 points this season. His previous career best of 41 came against Oklahoma City on Jan. 23, 2009.

"You just marvel in it," teammate Austin Rivers said. "He's like a bowling ball when he drives to the basket. Dudes just bounce off of him. He's so low to the ground and he's so strong."

Gordon missed 22 games after having surgery on his right knee Nov. 13. Since his return, he's averaging 20 points in 13 games.

"He's pain-free for the first time in a year and a half," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "There will be ups and downs like all the others, but Eric is going to be good. As long as he's not hurting, he's going to be good."



RICK BOWMER/AP

Houston Rockets guard Eric Gordon had a career-high 50 points in a 126-117 defeat of the Utah Jazz Monday in Salt Lake City.

Harden missed his second straight game with a bruised left thigh. Capela (bruised right heel) and Westbrook (rest) sat out after playing Sunday against Denver.

Mavericks 107, Thunder 97: Luka Donic had 29 points and 11 rebounds, and Dallas won at Oklahoma City.

Thunder guard Chris Paul sat out for personal reasons a night after Kobe Bryant, one of the NBA's all-time greats, was killed in a helicopter crash in Southern California.

The Mavericks led by at least 10 points the entire fourth quarter. Tim Hardaway Jr. scored 15 points and Kristaps Porzingis added 14 points and 10 rebounds for Dallas.

Dennis Schroder scored 21 for the Thunder.

Heat 113, Magic 92: Bam Adebayo got his third triple-double of the season in his last opportunity to impress Eastern Conference

All-Star voters. Duncan Robinson scored 21 points and host Miami eased past Orlando.

Adebayo finished with 20 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. He's a candidate to be a reserve selection for the All-Star Game; coaches pick those teams, and their ballots are due at the NBA office on Tuesday for an announcement on Thursday.

Jimmy Butler scored 19 points, Goran Dragic had 14 and Tyler Herro added 13 for the Heat, who improved to 13-0 at home against Eastern Conference teams.

Nikola Vucetic had 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Magic.

Bulls 110, Spurs 109: Zach LaVine scored 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, including two clutch foul shots with 2.1 seconds left, and host Chicago edged San Antonio.

LaVine won an entertaining duel with DeMar DeRozan after the Bulls trailed by 10 heading

into the final period. DeRozan tied it at 108 on a tough fadeaway jumper with 8.6 seconds left, but LaVine responded with two free throws after he was fouled by Jakob Poeltl on a drive to the basket.

The Spurs had one last chance, and DeRozan was fouled by Kris Dunn on a long jumper with 0.2 seconds to go. DeRozan made the first, missed the second and grabbed the rebound, but was unable to get a shot off before time expired.

Cavaliers 115, Pistons 100: Kevin Love scored all 20 of his points in the first half and Cleveland won at Detroit to snap a seven-game losing streak. It was the third meeting this month between the Pistons and Cavaliers. They split a home-and-home series Jan. 7 and 9 in a pair of tightly contested games.

Collin Sexton had 23 points for Cleveland.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	32	14	.696	—
Toronto	30	15	.667	1½
Philadelphia	30	17	.638	2½
Brooklyn	19	26	.422	12½
New York	13	34	.277	19½
Southeast Division				
Miami	32	14	.696	—
Orlando	21	27	.438	12
Washington	15	30	.333	16½
Charlotte	11	31	.256	6
Atlanta	12	35	.255	20½
Central Division				
Milwaukee	40	6	.870	—
Indiana	30	17	.638	22½
Chicago	19	20	.488	9
Detroit	17	31	.354	24
Cleveland	13	34	.277	27½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	29	17	.630	—
Houston	26	20	.565	3
Memphis	22	24	.478	7
San Antonio	20	26	.435	9
New Orleans	18	29	.383	11½
Northwest Division				
Denver	32	14	.696	—
Utah	28	20	.583	5
Oklahoma City	20	27	.426	12½
Portland	15	32	.319	17½
Minnesota	15	32	.319	17½
Pacific Division				
L.A. Lakers	36	10	.783	—
L.A. Clippers	33	14	.702	3½
Phoenix	17	29	.368	19
Golden State	10	37	.213	26½

Sunday's games

Denver 117, Houston 110
Toronto 110, San Antonio 106
New Orleans 123, Boston 108
New York 110, Brooklyn 97
L.A. Clippers 112, Orlando 97
Memphis 114, Phoenix 109
Atlanta 152, Washington 133
Portland 139, Indiana 129

Monday's games

Cleveland 115, Detroit 109
Miami 113, Orlando 92
New Orleans 110, Oklahoma City 97
Sacramento 133, Minnesota 129, OT
Cleveland 110, San Antonio 109
Houston 126, Utah 117

Tuesday's games

Golden State at Philadelphia
New York at Charlotte
Dallas at Oklahoma City
New Orleans at Cleveland
Miami at Miami
Denver at Memphis
Washington at Milwaukee
Phoenix at Dallas
L.A. Clippers at L.A. Lakers

Wednesday's games

Chicago at Indiana
Phoenix at Memphis
Memphis at New York
Utah at San Antonio
Houston at Portland
Oklahoma City at Sacramento
Charlotte at Washington
Toronto at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Atlanta
Golden State at Boston
Sacramento at L.A. Clippers
Utah at Denver

Leaders

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Harden, HOU	43	447	457	1551	36.1
Antetokompo, MIL	43	382	488	1289	30.0
Young, ATL	42	393	305	1238	29.5
Dorsey, OKC	43	377	276	1082	25.3
Lillard, POR	45	405	317	1297	28.8
Doncic, DAL	43	387	367	1267	28.1
Leonard, LAC	36	346	223	987	27.4
Booker, PHX	43	397	281	1159	27.0
Davis, LAC	43	357	276	1032	26.3
Westbrook, HOU	39	387	201	1014	26.0
Curry, GSW	42	385	211	1112	25.3
LaVine, CHI	48	421	223	1214	25.3
Drummond, DET	43	382	218	1068	24.8
Mitchell, UTA	44	402	175	1085	24.7
Slakam, TOR	35	312	130	833	23.8
Wiggins, MIN	48	322	134	858	22.6
Walker, BOS	40	301	156	897	22.4
Adams, SAC	45	319	143	1009	22.4
McCollum, POR	43	370	75	930	21.6
Tatum, BOS	42	322	138	903	21.5

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Drummond, DET	43	122	488	610	15.8
Goert, UTA	43	158	467	625	14.5
Whiteside, POR	43	122	467	589	13.7
Capela, HOU	38	165	365	530	13.9
Antetokompo, MIL	43	180	456	556	12.9
Sabonis, IND	44	148	463	611	13.9
Vucetic, ORL	36	97	299	396	11.0
Adams, SAC	45	117	351	468	10.4
Thompson, CLE	44	184	272	456	10.4
Jokic, DEN	35	251	464	715	20.4

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
James, LAL	44	472	10.7
Young, ATL	42	375	8.9
Bolomey, LAC	39	369	9.5
Rubio, PHX	39	345	8.8
Simmons, PHI	45	365	8.1
Lillard, POR	45	347	7.7
Graham, CLE	43	343	7.9
Wade, HOU	39	288	7.4
Harden, HOU	43	314	7.3
Brogdon, MIL	33	241	7.3

FG Percentage

	G	FG	PCT
Robinson, NYK	172	240	.717
Goert, UTA	264	309	.689
Curry, GSW	204	239	.660
Allen, BKN	199	309	.644
Capela, HOU	241	387	.624
Clarke, OKC	201	323	.622
Adams, OKC	188	314	.599

Hield's career-high 42 rallies Kings past Timberwolves

By JOE ZIEMER

Associated Press

MINNEAPOLIS — On a night full of tributes to basketball legend, Buddy Hield's stole the show.

Channeling the memories of his childhood hero, Hield poured in a career-high 42 points to rally the Sacramento Kings from a 27-point deficit to a 133-129 overtime victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Monday night.

"That's the reason I wanted to play in the NBA because of Kobe," Hield said. "I feel that was with me. He never gives up. That's always his mentality. Never give up. No matter what the stakes was, he was always pushing, always pressing. He's making sure guys feel him. That's what I did tonight."

DeAaron Fox scored 22 for the Kings, putting back the rebound of his intentionally missed free throw as part of a 33-11 run over

'We've been on the road for 10 days, and it's been an emotional last couple of days.'

Luke Walton
Sacramento Kings coach

the final 5:42 of regulation. Sacramento trailed by 17 with 2:49 left. According to ESPN Stats and Info, entering Monday, NBA teams were 0-8.378 since 1996-97 when trailing by 17 or more in the final three minutes of the fourth quarter or overtime.

"No matter what, we should be able to play with a 15-point lead with a couple minutes

left," Timberwolves coach Ryan Saunders said. "They made shots. We didn't execute our defensive game plan. We didn't get rebounds when we needed to. We didn't make the couple of plays."

The Kings ended a five-game road trip with their second consecutive victory. Fox scored 17 points in the second half and overtime. Nemanja Bjelica finished with 20 points.

"We've been on the road for 10 days, and it's been an emotional last couple of days," said Sacramento coach Luke Walton, a teammate of Bryant's for nine seasons with the Los Angeles Lakers.

"We'll take it. What I love about this group is what they've shown all year, which is they don't ever stop fighting."

Andrewiggins had 36 points, nine rebounds and eight assists for Minnesota, which lost its 10th consecutive game.

NBA



KIM D. JOHNSON/AP

Philadelphia 76ers' Allen Iverson, left, complains about being held with the Los Angeles Lakers' Kobe Bryant at the end of Game 2 of the NBA Finals in Los Angeles, as 76ers' Raja Bell looks on at rear. Though Bryant grew up in the Philadelphia area, his relationship with the city's fans was complex.

Kobe's legacy in Philadelphia: From hero to traitor to beloved

By DAN GELSTON
Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Jeered like a traitor just a few miles from the high school where he won a state title, Kobe Bryant stewed on the bench as the final minutes of the 2002 All-Star Game ticked away. Nearly every fan in Philadelphia had booed the hometown guy whenever he touched the ball.

Never one to forget a slight, Bryant was stung by the vitriol.

"I'm just out there trying to play and have a good time," Bryant said. "My feelings are hurt, being from Philadelphia."

His local roots meant little to the rowdy crowd that would not forgive Bryant for comments from the previous season when the Los Angeles Lakers played the 76ers in the NBA Finals.

Bryant had warned fans that he wasn't coming home to relive the glory years at Lower Merion High School. Bryant proclaimed he was "coming to Philly to cut their hearts out."

The Lakers won the championship in five games, a series that began an unforgiving attitude from Sixers fanatics that continued until Bryant's final NBA game in the city.

Bryant, killed at 41 in a helicopter crash Sunday, had a turbulent relationship with Philadelphia.

After he went head-to-head with 76ers star Allen Iverson, Bryant became the All-Star fans loved to hate. They criticized his toy high school and his adopted LA swagger, saying Bryant was not as blue collar or tough as the city of his birth.

Bryant never apologized for saying he wanted to thrash the 76ers, just as he insisted he never forgot where he came from.

He spent much of his childhood living in Italy where his father,



RON TOOT/AP

A makeshift shrine Sunday night at Lower Merion High School, where NBA basketball star Kobe Bryant attended, in Ardmore, Pa.

Joe Bryant, played pro basketball for several years. When his family moved back to the United States, Bryant went to Lower Merion High School, in an affluent suburb about 20 minutes west of downtown Philadelphia.

But after 2001, his relationship with local fans became strained, and when NBA Commissioner David Stern presented Bryant with the All-Star Game MVP trophy in 2002, the boos were long and loud.

He wanted to cut out hearts; the boos broke his.

Bryant always had his supporters, though, the ones who remembered how the teen prodigy about turned Lower Merion into a high school version of his dynasty Lakers.

"We played Chester down at the Palestra, and they were scalping tickets outside for \$1,000," former Lower Merion assistant athletic director Jerry Monzo said. "That was standing room only. I remember courtside you had Coach K, Coach Boeheim, Coach Calhoun. That was the kind of buzz that followed him everywhere he went. We turned people away every single night we played at home."

Bryant led the Aces to Class

AAAA state title at Hershey Park Arena in 1996, the school's first since 1943. He capped his senior year by going to prom with R&B singer Brandy.

Bryant's loyalty toward Lower Merion and coach Gregg Downer never wavered, and the Kobe Bryant Gymnasium at the school's campus was dedicated in 2010.

This week, mourners left flowers, basketballs and posters at a makeshift memorial at the gym he helped fund with a \$400,000 donation. Monday's school day opened with 33 seconds of silence in honor of his retired Aces uniform number.

Once his playing career was over, Bryant fit in again as a Philly guy. He gave a pep talk to the Eagles in October 2017 when the team played in California.

By then, the ill will toward Bryant had dissipated, yielding to "M-V-P!" chants in his final game in Philly in December 2015. He waved to the crowd and bowed his head in appreciation as "Kobe! Kobe! Kobe!" chants filled Wells Fargo Center. Bryant hugged Downer and 76ers great Julius Erving in front of a crowd dotted with purple-and-gold No. 24 jerseys.

Sadness at LA's Staples Center

Lakers-Clippers game canceled as fans mourn Bryant's death

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Fans call it The House that Kobe Built, and since Kobe Bryant's shocking death in a helicopter crash, mourners by the thousands have gathered outside the gleaming steel-and-glass edifice where the Los Angeles Lakers legend made so much basketball history.

The arrivals at downtown Staples Center began soon after word spread that Bryant and his 13-year-old daughter, Gianna, were among nine people killed in Sunday's crash. They continued unabated Monday as people took off from school or work to pay respects to a man with whom many felt a kinship.

"The memories that he gave us as a family were great memories," said Lawrence Perez of North Hollywood, Calif., who arrived with his wife, Maureen, and 15-year-old daughter, Desiree. "We could have been at home, but we wanted to be with other people who are kind of going through the same thing."

The Lakers had a game scheduled Tuesday night against the LA Clippers at Staples Center but the NBA postponed it "out of respect" for the Lakers. The next Lakers home game is Friday night against Portland.

The Staples Center, home to the Lakers and Clippers, opened for the 1999-2000 season, just as a 21-year-old Bryant was blossoming. That season the team would win the first of five championships over the next 10 years.

Although the mood there Monday was often somber as people hugged and wiped away tears, many couldn't help but grin at times as they recalled joyful moments Bryant brought.

"The greatest moment was when I got his autograph his rookie year," Perez said, recalling how he told the teenage Bryant he was destined for greatness. Bryant smiled, shook his hand and said he hoped he'd just break into the team's starting lineup sometime soon.

Perez had planned to bring that ball to Bryant's Hall of Fame induction, expected later this year, and ask him to sign it again.

"But that's not going to happen now," he said softly as his wife hugged him and said, "We cried when he heard the news."

As people arrived at the arena they were greeted by a gigantic display of flowers, balloons, votive candles (some with Bryant's photo on them), hats, jerseys, statuettes of angels and photos and paintings of Bryant and his daughter circling the entire area. Some showed father and daughter with angel's wings. Others contained personal messages written in English, Spanish and Chinese, showing the international impact Bryant's career had.

Nearby, Michelle Rodriguez of Los Angeles wiped away a tear as she gazed at photos of Bryant with his daughter and his teammates. The 30-year-old emergency room nurse had arrived with her 12-year-old bulldog, Canelle, after working an overnight shift. Both were wearing Lakers jerseys.

"I think everyone could say we loved the team as a whole, but it was different when you saw Kobe play," she said.

"And he was such an awesome man outside of basketball too," she added. "All the work he did in the community, he's a hero to this city."



RINGO H.W. CHU/AP

Eric Mascarenhas comforts his son Nicolas at a memorial for Kobe Bryant near the Staples Center on Monday in Los Angeles.

NHL/COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Benn, Stars top Lightning in overtime

Associated Press

DALLAS — Jamie Benn scored his second goal 2:07 into overtime and the Dallas Stars beat the Tampa Bay Lightning 3-2 on Monday.

Steven Stamkos had both goals for Tampa Bay, including the tying score with 1:26 left in regulation.

Benn got the winner after a turnover by Brayden Point, who then appeared to grab the Dallas captain from behind before the Dallas backhand past All-Star goaltender Andrei Vasilevsky, who made 32 saves.

"I was lucky to knock that puck down," Benn said. "We were making high-risk plays," Point said. "One example is on the last goal for me. I tried to throw it to the middle and he picked it off."

Ben Bishop, who Vasilevsky passed last month for the most games in goal for the Lightning, stopped 23 shots.

Denis Gurianov also scored for the Stars.

Capitals 4, Canadiens 2: Jakub Vrana had a goal and an assist as Eastern Conference-leading Washington won at Montreal for its fourth straight victory.

Tom Wilson, Travis Boyd and Nicklas Backstrom also scored for the Capitals, and T.J. Oshie had two assists. Washington, 7-1-0 in its last eight games at Bell Centre, was without star forward Alex Ovechkin while he missed his first game this season to serve a one-game suspension for skipping the All-Star Game.

Braden Holtby made 31 saves and improved to 14-2-2 in his career against the Canadiens.

Jeff Petry and Dale Weise scored for Montreal, which began the night 10 points out of a play-off spot. Carey Price stopped 36 shots.

Maple Leafs 5, Predators 2: William Nylander, Zach Hyman



Dallas Stars left wing Jamie Benn, right, backhands the winning goal in a 3-2 overtime defeat of the Tampa Bay Lightning on Monday in Dallas. Benn had two goals.

and Rasmus Sandin each scored and had an assist to lead Toronto to a win at Nashville.

Jason Spezza and Auston Matthews also scored and Frederik Andersen made 34 saves for the Maple Leafs, who snapped a two-game losing streak.

Mikael Granlund and Viktor Arvidsson scored for the Predators, who have lost of three of four.

Devils 4, Senators 3 (50): Kyle Palmieri tied it late in the third period, and Nikita Gusev and Jack Hughes scored in the shootout to lift New Jersey to a win at Ottawa.

Damon Severson and Kevin Rooney also scored in regulation for the Devils, who snapped a three-game losing streak. Mackenzie Blackwood, making his first start since Jan. 9, stopped 35

shots.

Tyler Ennis, Vladislav Namestnikov and Chris Tierney scored for the Senators. Marcus Högberg had 50 saves through overtime, but gave up two goals on two shots in the tiebreaker.

Canucks 3, Blues 1: J.T. Miller scored twice in the second period to help cut Vancouver rally from an early deficit.

Bo Horvat also scored as the Canucks won their ninth straight at home, and 12th in the last 15 overall. Jake Virtanen and Chris Tanev each had two assists. Thatcher Demko, making his second straight start, and fourth in the last 20 games, stopped 36 shots.

Miller has 48 points (19 goals, 29 assists) in 50 games this season, topping the 47 points (13 goals, 34 assists) he had in 75

games with Tampa Bay last year.

Zach Sanford scored for St. Louis, which has lost three straight (0-2-1). Jake Allen made 22 saves.

Sharks 4, Ducks 2: Patrick Marleau and Stefan Noesen each scored twice, and host San Jose beat Anaheim.

Marleau moved past Hall of Famer Guy Lafleur and into a tie with Mike Modano for 25th place on the NHL's career list with 561 goals. The 40-year-old also moved past Rod Brind'Amour for 50th on the all-time points list with 1,185 — including 1,101 with the Sharks.

Erik Karlsson had an assist for his 600th career point to help San Jose end a three-game skid. Aaron Dell stopped 26 shots.

Ondrej Kase and Nick Ritchie scored for the Ducks.

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Boston	51	29	12	10	69	135
Tampa Bay	49	29	15	5	63	177 140
Florida	49	28	16	5	61	163
Toronto	50	16	27	7	59	181 167
Buffalo	49	22	20	7	51	145 151
Montreal	51	22	22	7	51	157 161
Ottawa	49	17	23	9	43	133 167
Detroit	51	12	35	4	28	109 159
Metropolitan Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Washington	50	24	11	15	73	181 146
Pittsburgh	50	31	14	5	67	168 136
N.Y. Islanders	49	29	15	5	63	143 133
Columbus	51	27	16	8	62	138 130
Carolina	50	29	18	3	61	159 132
Philadelphia	50	27	19	4	60	158 150
N.Y. Rangers	48	23	21	4	50	158 159
New Jersey	49	18	24	7	43	130 176

Western Conference

Central Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
St. Louis	50	30	12	8	68	159 137
Colorado	49	28	15	6	62	179 143
Dallas	49	28	17	4	60	179 122
Chicago	51	24	21	6	54	155 161
Winnipeg	50	27	19	4	54	152 151
Minnesota	50	23	21	6	52	156 166
Nashville	48	22	19	7	51	158 159
Pacific Division						
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF GA
Vancouver	50	28	18	4	60	165 150
Edmonton	49	26	18	5	57	153 153
Calgary	50	26	19	5	57	135 147
Arizona	51	26	20	5	57	146 138
Vegas	52	25	20	7	57	161 159
San Jose	51	22	25	4	48	134 169
Anaheim	49	19	25	5	43	124 154
Los Angeles	50	18	27	5	41	125 158

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

Monday's games

Washington @ Montreal	New Jersey @ Ottawa	St. Louis @ Anaheim
Toronto @ Dallas	San Jose @ St. Louis	Tampa Bay @ St. Louis
San Jose @ Dallas	St. Louis @ Calgary	St. Louis @ Calgary
Nashville @ Washington	Toronto @ Dallas	Toronto @ Dallas
Arizona @ Anaheim	Calgary @ Edmonton	Calgary @ Edmonton
Calgary @ Edmonton	Vancouver @ San Jose	Vancouver @ San Jose
Montreal @ Buffalo	Nashville @ New Jersey	Nashville @ New Jersey
Los Angeles @ Arizona	Los Angeles @ Arizona	Los Angeles @ Arizona
Detroit @ N.Y. Rangers	Philadelphia @ Pittsburgh	Philadelphia @ Pittsburgh
Washington @ Ottawa	Vegas @ Columbus	Vegas @ Columbus
St. Louis @ Edmonton	Tampa Bay @ Anaheim	Tampa Bay @ Anaheim

Calendar

Feb. 15 — NHL Stadium Series: Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche, Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colo.
Feb. 24 — Trade deadline (3 p.m. EST).
Feb. 24-25 — NHL All-Star Game, Rogers Place, Detroit.
Feb. 26 — Regular season ends.
April 8 — Stanley Cup playoffs begin.
May 8-24 — IIHF World Championship, Zurich/Lausanne, Switzerland.



CHARLIE NIEBERGALL/AP

Iowa center Luka Garza blocks a shot by Wisconsin forward Micah Potter during the No. 18-ranked Hawkeyes' 68-62 win Monday night in Iowa City, Iowa.

Top 25 roundup

No. 18 Hawkeyes rally past Badgers

Associated Press

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Iowa's offense was sputtering, so the 18th-ranked Hawkeyes vowed to beat Wisconsin with defense.

"We knew we weren't going to lose this game," center Luka Garza said. "We had to string together some stops, and we would be fine."

They did just that in a 68-62 win over the Badgers on Monday night.

Garza had 21 points and 18 rebounds as the cold-shooting Hawkeyes rallied from a 12-point deficit. Iowa (15-5, 6-3 Big Ten) trailed 57-45 with 7:13 to play before going on a 19-2 run. Joe Toussaint's layup and free throw with 1:20 to go gave the Hawkeyes a 60-59 lead, and they did not wait again.

"We were getting stops," guard CJ Fredrick said. "And we were executing on the offensive end."

Wisconsin made just two of its last nine shots as Iowa ended the game on a 23-5 run.

"I think it was just toughness," Garza said. "We were tough through their run, and we were able to come together and make a run of our own, which was huge."

The Hawkeyes went 20-for-60 from the field, including 3-for-20 on three pointers. But they came up with big plays in the closing minutes, including Fredrick's three-pointer with 5:08 to go that cut Wisconsin's lead to 57-54.

No. 3 Kansas 65, Oklahoma State 50: Freshman Christian Braun made the most of his first career start.

Taking the lineup spot of the suspended David McCormack, Braun had 16 points and nine rebounds to lead the Jayhawks to the road win.

Kansas (17-3, 6-1 Big 12) has won

five in a row, including a 74-68 triumph over Tennessee on Saturday in the Big 12/SEC Challenge, as well as its last five on the road.

Cameron McGriff had 18 points and eight rebounds to lead the Cowboys (10-10, 0-7), the only winless team in Big 12 action. Isaac Likekele had 10 points and four rebounds for Oklahoma State, which had snapped a six-game losing streak with a 73-62 win at Texas A&M on Saturday.

The Jayhawks' defense was outstanding, limiting Oklahoma State to 28.1% shooting (18-for-64), a season low, including 13.6% (3-for-22) over the first 14 minutes of the second half. After connecting on 34 of 83 shots (41%) combined over its past four games from three-point range, Oklahoma State was 2-for-18 (11.1%) in this one.

AUSTRALIAN OPEN/NFL

Federer saves 7 match points; Djokovic up next

By HOWARD FENDRICH

Associated Press

MELBOURNE, Australia — Roger Federer was not going to go gently, of course, no matter how daunting the number of match points — his opponent accumulated seven! — no matter how achy his 38-year-old legs, no matter how slow his serves, no matter how off-target his groundstrokes. Federer still plays for the love of these stages and circumstances. Still years for more trophies, too. Down to his very last gasp, time and again, against someone a decade younger, 100th-ranked Tennys Sandgren of the United States, Federer somehow pulled off a memorable comeback to reach the Australian Open semifinals for the 15th time.

Despite all sorts of signs he was not quite himself for much of the match, Federer beat the biceps-baring, hard-hitting, court-covering Sandgren 6-3, 2-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3 on Tuesday in a rollicking quarterfinal that appeared to be over long before it truly was.

"For the most time there, I thought that was it. Of course, there's little sparkles where it may not be. Then you're like, 'No, it is over,'" said Federer, who only once before had won after facing as many as seven match points, equaling his personal best points all the way back in 2003. "Only maybe when I won that fourth set did I really think that, maybe, this whole thing could turn around."

He said afterward that it had been his groin muscle that was the problem and he couldn't be certain whether he would be fully recovered for his next match. That will come against defending champion Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed No. 32 Milos Raonic 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (1) to improve to 10-0 against the 2016 Wimbledon runner-up.

"He was just too good," Raonic said.

It'll be the 50th meeting between No. 3 Federer, who has won 20 Grand Slam titles, and No.



ANDY BROWN/MLA/AP

Roger Federer, right, questions a line judge during his quarterfinal against Tennys Sandgren at the Australian Open in Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday. Federer rallied to advance to the semifinals.

2 Djokovic, who owns 16.

Djokovic leads their head-to-head series 26-23, including their past five matches at majors.

"Roger is Roger. You know that he's always going to play on such a high level, regardless of the surface," Djokovic said. "He loves to play these kind of matches, big rivalries, semis, finals of Grand Slams."

About the only thing that slowed Djokovic's progression to a 37th career Grand Slam semifinal — Federer earned his 46th — was the medical timeout the Serb asked for at 4-11 in the third set so he could put in new contact lenses.

"It was just something I had to do," Djokovic said, "because those few games, I really couldn't see much."

One women's semifinal also was set Tuesday: No. 1 Ash Barty, trying to become the first Australian Open singles champion from the host country since the 1970s, against No. 14 Sofia Kenin, a 21-year-old American never before this far at any major tournament.

Barty was under pressure on her serve and saved a set point in the tiebreaker before seizing the momentum against two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitová in a 7-6 (6), 6-2 quarterfinal win.

Kenin reached the semifinals at a major for the first time with a 6-4, 6-4 win over No. 78-ranked Ons Jabeur.

In a first set that lasted almost 70 minutes, Barty fended off eight of the nine break-point chances she faced before finally getting the upper hand when she won a 22-shot rally, defending for much of it and sending up lobbs just to stay in the point, at 3-2 down in the tiebreaker.

No Australian has won a sin-

gles title at the national championship since 1978, when Chris O'Neil took the women's title. The drought for Australian men extends two years longer.

"I'm not going to have anything but a smile on my face when I walk out onto this court," Barty said out of the expectations.

The Moscow-born, Florida-raised Kenin won't mind at all if she crashes the party. She took out Serena Williams last year at the French Open before losing to Barty in the fourth round. She also registered wins over Barty and then No. 1-ranked Naomi Osaka later in the year.

There is a lot to live up to after the drama of Federer vs. Sandgren.

"You can't give a good player — let alone maybe the best player ever — that many chances to come back," said Sandgren, his voice low, his eyes looking down. "They're going to find their game and start playing well. That seemed to me what happened."

In truth, so much had happened.

Federer got into a dispute with a line judge and the chair umpire over cursing. He left the court for a medical timeout early in the third set, then was visited by a trainer later for a right leg massage.

Sandgren was run into by a ball kid during a changeover in the tiebreaker; was distracted by a court-side broadcast commentator.

The 28-year-old from Tennessee has never been a major semifinalist and was trying to become the lowest-ranked man in the Australian Open's final four since Patrick McEnroe — John's younger brother — was No. 114 in 1991.

Imagine, then, the heartbreak

Scoreboard

Australian Open

Tuesday
At Melbourne Park, Melbourne, Australia
Purse: AUD\$1,000,000
Surface: Hardcourt outdoor
(seedings in parentheses):
Men's Singles
Quarterfinals
Roger Federer (3), Switzerland, def. Tennys Sandgren, United States, 6-3, 2-6, 2-6, 7-6 (8), 6-3.
Novak Djokovic (2), Serbia, def. Milos Raonic (32), Canada, 6-4, 6-3, 7-6 (1).
Women's Singles
Quarterfinals
Sofia Kenin (14), United States, def. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 6-4, 6-4.
Ashleigh Barty (1), Australia, def. Petra Kvitová (7), Czech Republic, 7-6 (6), 6-2.

Men's Doubles
Quarterfinals
Rajeev Ram, United States, and Joe Salisbury (11), Britain, def. Henri Kontinen, Finland, and Jan-Lennard Struff, Germany, 6-4, 6-4.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Filip Polasek (4), Slovakia, def. Jonny Moya, Britain, and Marcelo Arevalo-Gonzalez, El Salvador, 6-3, 6-2.
Luke Saville and Matt Purcell, Australia, vs. Santiago Gonzalez, Mexico, and Ken Skupski, Britain, 6-4, 6-4.

Women's Doubles
Quarterfinals
Barbora Strycova, Czech Republic, and Hsieh Su-wei (1), Taiwan, def. Jennifer Brady and Caroline Dolehide, United States, 6-2, 6-2.
Barbora Krejickova and Katerina Siniakova (4), Czech Republic, def. Gabriela Dabrowski, Canada, and Jelena Ostapenko (6), Latvia, 3-6, 6-2, 6-3.
Kristina Mladenovic, France, and Times Babos (2), Hungary, def. Caty McNally and Cori Gauff, United States, 6-2, 6-4.

Latisha Chan (3) and Bao-Ching Chan (7), Taiwan, def. Elise Mertens, Belgium, and Aryna Sabalenka (3), Belarus, 7-6 (7), 6-2.

Mixed Doubles
Third Round
Henri Kontinen, Finland, and Gabriela Dabrowski (3), Canada, def. Matthew Ebden and Jessica Moore, Australia, 7-5, 7-6 (5).
Bethanie Mattek-Sands, United States, and Jamie Murray, Britain, def. Leander Paes, India, and Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 6-2, 7-5.

Elise Mertens, Croatia, and Barbora Krejickova (5), Czech Republic, def. Nick Kyrgios, Australia, and Anastasia Anisimova, United States, 4-6, 6-4, 10-8.
Ivan Dodig, Croatia, and Latisha Chan (3), Taiwan, def. Roger Vasellin, France, and Andreja Klepac, Slovenia, 6-3, 6-4, 10-8.

for Sandgren, who toiled for years on lower-level tours and was so thrilled just to share the stage with Federer.

"Maybe," Sandgren said, "I'll get another shot, another shot."

After rolling through the second and third sets as Federer's serve dropped from an average of 112 mph to 105 mph — "Wasn't popping like it does normally," Sandgren observed — and Federer's unforced errors totaled 30, the underdog led 5-4 in the fourth set.

That's when Sandgren earned his first trio of opportunities to complete a career-defining victory. But he missed a shot each time. There were four more match points in the tiebreaker at 6-3, 6-4, 6-5 and 7-6.

"Honestly, when they told me seven, I was like, 'What?' I thought it was three," Federer said. "It's such a blur."

Djokovic's take on Federer's comeback: "Amazing."

When Sandgren sent an overhead smash long to give Federer the fourth set, Federer quickly controlled the fifth and ended the victory with a service winner at 119 mph, a little more than an hour after first staring down defeat.

"Just seemed like his level picked up when his back was right up against the wall," said Sandgren, who only got the chance to serve on one of those seven pivotal points.

NFL briefs

Hunt told officer he'd fail drug test

Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Browns running back Kareem Hunt told a police officer he would have failed a drug test if he had been checked during a stop when he was ticketed for speeding and marijuana was found in his car.

Hunt was cited for speeding — but no other charges — last week when he was pulled over while driving on a highway in Rocky River, Ohio. In a dashboard camera video released Monday, Hunt was apologetic and emotional while discussing his situation with the officer.

"I'll never do this again," said Hunt, who was cited for driving 77 mph in a 60 mph zone, but wasn't charged for the marijuana or an open container with vodka.

In the incident report, the officer said small amounts of marijuana were located in three places in a backpack found on Hunt's backseat.

While being questioned, Hunt acknowledged being worried about the incident affecting his career. The officer asked if the NFL were to test him now, if he would fail.

"Yes, sir," he said. "It's off-season, sorry, I was having a good time."

Hunt's admission that he would fail a drug test could put him in more trouble with the league. Hunt was suspended eight games last season for two physical altercations while he played for Kansas City. He was captured on video shoving and kicking a woman during an argument in the hallway of a Cleveland hotel.

A league spokesman did not immediately return a request for comment.

On Friday, the Browns said they were aware of Hunt's situation and were gathering more information. A team spokesman said the team had nothing new to add after the video's release.

After NFL news:

■ Andrew Berry was named Cleveland's GM and executive vice president on Tuesday, returning to the team after a one-year stint in the Philadelphia Eagles' front office. Berry was the Browns' vice president of player personnel from 2016-18, when the team went 1-31 over two seasons and was mired in dysfunction.

■ A Florida judge freed NFL free agent Antonio Brown from house arrest Tuesday, allowing him to travel freely as he awaits trial on charges that he attacked the driver of a moving truck.

Circuit Judge Michael Usan agreed to let Brown travel freely within the United States so he can fulfill contractual obligations with ESPN and comedian Kevin Hart, according to news reports.



LEE JIN-MAH/AP

Australia's Ashleigh Barty waves after defeating Petra Kvitová in their quarterfinal match Tuesday.

SUPER BOWL

Less: 49ers haven't had to rally during postseason

FROM BACK PAGE

Garoppolo completed six passes for 77 yards against Green Bay. It was the fewest pass attempts by a team in the playoffs since Griese's Dolphins threw six times in the AFC title game against Oakland following the 1973 season and then only seven times in a Super Bowl win over Minnesota two weeks later.

The only other time a team threw eight or fewer passes in a playoff game came in the 1971 AFC championship when Griese had eight attempts in a victory over Baltimore.

The run-heavy script that seems out of place in the modern pass-happy era has been especially glaring ever since Garoppolo made one of his few mistakes in the postseason.

He threw an interception late in the first half of the divisional round against Minnesota for his 19th turnover of the season, more than any other player who made the postseason.

Since that point, he has gone 9-for-14 for 103 yards and one sack in six-plus quarters as the Niners have run the ball on 73 of 88 offensive plays.

In fact, Garoppolo has been asked to kneel down to run out the clock in that span more times (five) than he has completed a pass that traveled past the line of scrimmage (four).

"That's just how this world works and you'll get credit if you win a Super Bowl or an NFL MVP or something like that," coach Kyle Shanahan said. "We ran the ball (the last two weeks), so a lot of people are going to say that Jimmy didn't do enough. There's lots of games this year that we haven't been able to run the ball and we've had to win it by pass-

ing. That's what I'm proud of with Jimmy and proud of our team, that you can't really say that we have to win a game a certain way. I think we've shown that we can win a number of ways."

One reason Garoppolo has been asked to do so little is the Niners have spent the last month playing from ahead. They haven't trailed a game since a comeback 34-31 win in Week 16 against the Los Angeles Rams.

They have been tied or led for the past 186:14 of game action, allowing Shanahan to lean more heavily on his defense and running game rather than counting on Garoppolo to deliver the big plays.

The strategy has worked as San Francisco has 89 carries for 471 yards in playoff wins over Minnesota and Green Bay, although Garoppolo might have to do more to keep up with Patrick Mahomes and the high-powered Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

Garoppolo has shown the ability to do that this season, leading four fourth-quarter comebacks and ranking tied for second in the league with three games of at least four TD passes in the regular season.

The biggest success he had came in a 48-46 win at New Orleans in December when he rallied the Niners back from a 13-point, first-half deficit and then engineered the game-winning field-goal drive in the final minute of regulation.

Garoppolo said one benefit of the strategy the past two games is the Niners have been able to hold back some pass plays that could work against the Chiefs.

"They'll have to be on their toes," he said, "kind of play the game out as it goes."



MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/AP

49ers running back Raheem Mostert, right, celebrates his touchdown with quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo during the second half of the NFC championship game against the Green Bay Packers on Jan. 19 in Santa Clara, Calif. The 49ers have been relying more on Mostert and the running game during the playoffs.



DAVID J. PHILLIP/AP

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes speaks to reporters Monday during media night, which opened Super Bowl week, at Marlins Park in Miami.

Remembering Kobe

Tribute for Bryant kicks off media night

By ROB MAADDI
Associated Press

MIAMI — Chants of "Kobe! Kobe! Kobe!" broke a moment of a silence that kicked off a more subdued Super Bowl media night.

The NFL opened the most hyped week in professional sports with mixed emotions Monday night, one day after retired superstar Kobe Bryant, his daughter and seven others died in a helicopter crash in California.

The Kansas City Chiefs took the stage first on what typically is a wild evening filled with zany antics by quasi-media members. One television reporter wearing a short, white dress and sailor's cap asked a few players to do the Floss dance with her but the atmosphere was mostly deflated.

Fans of the Chiefs and San Francisco 49ers made some noise. Still, it seemed there were more media than fans in the seats at Marlins Park, making it look a lot like a baseball game in the middle of summer than the NFL's annual version of a music festival.

Players tried to soak in the excitement of their first trip — for many — to the Super Bowl while struggling with the news of Bryant's death.

"I wasn't lucky enough to get to meet Kobe," Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes said. "But the impact that he made in my life, it was huge. The way he was able to go about every single day, when I was a kid, and the work ethic and the intensity that he had to be great every single day."

"Even to this day, I still watch videos on YouTube the day before games and just listen to him talk and how he puts everything in perspective of being great on and off the field with his kids, and his business ventures and then, obviously, his play. It's a tragic thing. Prayers to his family, but he made a huge impact in my life, for sure."

Richard Sherman, the Niners' five-time Pro Bowl cornerback, had a personal relationship with Bryant. They spoke soon after Sherman tore his Achilles tendon in November 2017 with Bryant sharing advice on his recovery from the injury.

"He was a competitor, I think that's the best word," Sherman said. "He was one of the most unique people I have had the honor to have met."



CHRIS CARLSON/AP

Chiefs head coach Andy Reid is only the seventh coach to lead two teams to the Super Bowl.

Asked what Bryant's message to him this week would've been, Sherman said: "He would have told me to push forward. I have tried to apply a lot of the parts of his game to mine. I believe I have done that. His aggressiveness, ability to finish, understanding of the game. His cerebral approach, even in his older age, I think I have tried to do that in my game, too."

Chiefs coach Andy Reid knew Bryant from Reid's years coaching the Philadelphia Eagles. Bryant went to high school in a Philly suburb and had a love-hate relationship with fans in the city because he played for the Los Angeles Lakers. But he was a die-hard Eagles fan and his reaction on social media after the team won its first Super Bowl title two years ago endeared him to many. The city mourned his loss as one of its own.

"It's sad," Reid said. "A great person, man. I feel bad for his family, sick for his family. They'll rebound. They're strong. They'll live up to his strength."

AP Photo/football Writers Barry Wilner, Teresa M. Walker, Dennis Waskaz and Josh Dubow contributed to this report.

SUPER BOWL



REED HOFFMANN/AP

Kansas City Chiefs outside linebacker Terrell Suggs, left, has been to seven Pro Bowls and has played in 20 postseason games, more than any of his teammates.

Suggs' veteran swagger, savvy crucial to Chiefs

By DAVE SKRETTA
Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — There was a moment during practice while the Kansas City Chiefs were preparing for their AFC title game against Tennessee, that caused linebackers coach Matt House to seek out defensive coordinator Steve Spagnuolo.

It had to do with pass rusher Terrell Suggs, and it was just too good to let go.

"He said, 'Wow, T-Suggs was just over there talking about this technique we had and he just put on a clinic,'" Spagnuolo said. "All the linebackers, nobody said anything. They just watched."

Surprising given that Suggs has only been with the Chiefs for about a month.

Not at all surprising given that the 17-year veteran has earned his stripes during a long career spent primarily with the Baltimore Ravens, where he helped the team win the Super Bowl after the 2012 season. In a strange coincidence, the opponent happened to be the San Francisco 49ers, whom Kansas City will face in Miami in the Super Bowl on Sunday.

This is exactly what Suggs hoped for when the Arizona Cardinals waived him last month.

The Chiefs had just lost their second defensive end to a season-ending injury, and they were desperate for some help to pair with pass rusher Frank Clark. They never could have guessed it would come in the form of a former All-Pro and seven-time Pro Bowl selection who had 138 sacks and more postseason experience than anyone on their roster.

There were reports that Suggs was initially skeptical of joining



Super Bowl LIV
Kansas City Chiefs (14-4)
vs. San Francisco 49ers (15-3)
AFN-Sports
12:30 a.m. Monday CET
8:30 a.m. Monday JKT

the Chiefs, preferring instead to return to the Ravens. But all it took was a look at the roster — quarterback Patrick Mahomes, wide receiver Tyreek Hill and tight end Travis Kelce on offense, and Clark and safety Tyrann Mathieu on defense — and an honest, heart-to-heart talk with coach Andy Reid to convince Suggs, nickname "T-Sizzle."

"It didn't take much convincing," Suggs said. "This team is pretty vet-savvy. Having been in this position a few times, you learn more from failure than you ever would from success. I think that the things that have happened in years past kind of prepared this team for the task that it took. It also doesn't hurt to have the reigning MVP, and definitely the best tight end in the game, on your team. Once they get rolling and clicking on all cylinders, we got to have fun out there."

Indeed, it didn't take long for Suggs to get rolling. He joined the team early in Week 16 and played about a quarter of the defensive snaps in a win at Chicago. He upped that number by about half the following week against

the Chargers, when a win by the Chiefs coupled with a loss by the Patriots gave the team a first-round playoff bye.

Suggs helped to corral Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson in the divisional round and shut down Titans running back Derrick Henry in the AFC title game.

Suggs, 37, has seen just about everything during his career, and he's eager to pass along that knowledge to the next generation. The scene that played out at practice last week was but one example of Suggs taking a defensive player — or a bunch of them, in that case — to the side and giving them pointers that often resonate with players far more than if they were coming from a coach.

"He's a true veteran," Mathieu said. "I think he has a lot of that championship swagger. He comes to work every day. Always taking notes."

After the Chiefs took care of the Titans, Suggs became the go-to player in the locker room for tips on dealing with the Super Bowl, whether it was the daunting crush of media obligations, the countless friends and families trying to get tickets or secure flights, or the actual challenge of preparing for the biggest game in professional football.

Suggs said he never could have pictured himself playing in another Super Bowl when he was struggling through the season in Arizona a few months ago, or even when he joined the Chiefs midway through last month.

"It's definitely one of the most humbling feelings to be a part of," he said. "I'm very fortunate to be a part of it."

Worth the wait

Offensive tackle Staley stuck with the 49ers through some lean years

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

SANTA CLARA, Calif. — When the San Francisco 49ers were mired in a two-win season back in 2016 and headed to a third straight offseason with a coaching change, Joe Staley wondered if it was still worth the sacrifices needed to play offensive line in such a grueling sport.

He had gone from three straight trips to the NFC title game to a three-year stretch that featured only 15 wins and three coaching changes.

That's when coach Kyle Shanahan and general manager John Lynch arrived and Staley's outlook changed.

"I'd be lying to you if I said, 'No, I always believed,'" Staley said. "But there were some dark years here in the franchise, it's been well written about and reported on. But once I met Kyle and John and the vision they had for the franchise, I was pretty confident we were going to get there. I was just happy I was still feeling the way I felt, still had years left to play, was going to be able to see this through."

The turnaround was far from sudden as the Niners lost their first nine games under the new regime in 2017 and then started 1-7 the next year, winning a combined 10 games in two seasons.

Staley never lost faith, signing a \$28 million, two-year extension this offseason that keeps him under contract through 2021. That patience has been rewarded with a second Super Bowl.

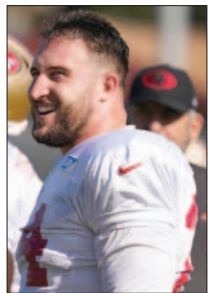
"It really played out exactly like they spelled it out in 2017, so once they were here, I knew it was a special, special group," Staley said. "Kyle's a special coach and the staff that he's brought here has been unbelievable. Top-to-bottom, it's a special team."

The feeling between coach and player is mutual, with Shanahan saying he's grateful for the praise from Staley. Shanahan also said he understood the frustration Staley felt with losing but never saw any on-field reasons why he should step away.

"I thought he looked as good when we got here as he ever had and I think he looks even better now," Shanahan said. "That always surprised me, but I think Joe really loves football and I don't think he wasn't having that much fun. It's never fun when you aren't winning and that's what was hard for me. I thought he did buy in, and to start out 0-9 and watch his frustration with that. He kept doing it the right way."

Staley, a first-round pick in 2007, has been a big part of the turnaround as he finishes up his 13th season in San Francisco that has included six coaches and multiple roster overhauls.

Through it all the constant has



TONY AVELAR/AP

San Francisco 49ers offensive tackle Joe Staley is the only player on the team who was on the active roster when the 49ers went to the 2012 Super Bowl.

been Staley, 35, the only player on the active roster left from the team that went to the Super Bowl following the 2012 season.

"He's seen the ups and downs," teammate Mike McGlinchey said. "He's been to one before with this organization and there were some dark years that followed that and the dark years started happening when he was in the latter end of his career, which is really hard on a player. But he stuck with it and we're starting to reap the rewards. I'm super excited for him to be able to get this opportunity and hopefully we can win it for him."

Despite being plagued by injuries all season after missing six games with a broken leg suffered in Week 2 and three more after breaking his finger in his first game back in November, Staley is still performing at an elite level.

He's a key part of a dominant line that has powered a ground game that has rushed for 47 yards in two playoff games and has protected Jimmy Garoppolo well all season.

"He's returned to vintage Joe Staley," McGlinchey said. "That's been really helpful to this football team."

Staley has allowed pressure on just 2.8% of his pass blocks, according to Pro Football Focus, ranking second among all tackles this season to Baltimore All-Pro Ronnie Stanley.

"It's huge to have him, especially just big moments, games like this," Garoppolo said. "We've had them throughout the entire end of the season, it feels like, these big games. But, just having a guy like that who could calm everything down, put everything in perspective, things like that. Joe's done phenomenal on the field, and the things he does off the field go very unnoticed, but it carries us a long way."

SPORTS

SUPER BOWL

Doing less

49ers didn't need QB's arm to reach big game

By JOSH DUBOW
Associated Press

MAYBE it was fitting that Jimmy Garoppolo did his best Bob Griese impersonation in the victory that sent the San Francisco 49ers to Griese's old stomping grounds in Miami for the Super Bowl.

Perhaps no quarterback since the former Dolphins Hall of Famer had ever done less in the game that led his team to the Super Bowl than Garoppolo did in the NFC championship game, when he threw only eight passes in a 37-20 victory over Green Bay.

That's led to some predictable skepticism about whether Garoppolo should get credit for leading the Niners to the Super Bowl or if he's just along for the ride.

"That's wild that he takes criticism for that," left tackle Joe Staley said last week. "We won the game. We were doing what we needed to do to win the game and that's the main point of an NFL football game. I think he would be pretty sad if he threw 450 and we lost, so it doesn't really matter."

Garoppolo acknowledged he hears the criticism that he didn't do much to get San Francisco this far and uses it as motivation, even if he's much quieter about it than teammate Richard Sherman, who seems to seek out doubters as fuel.

"I do the same thing," Garoppolo said. "I hear all the stuff and everything, but you can't put that all out there all the time. You have to do with it what you will and take it for what it is. Just at the end of the day you've got to go out there and play football."

SEE LESS ON PAGE 22

Inside:

- Staley's patience finally pays off, Page 23
- Suggs joined KC at perfect time, Page 23
- Media night: A tribute to Kobe, Page 22



DANIEL GLUSKOTER, ABOVE, AND MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ, LEFT/AP

Since throwing an interception late in the first half of the divisional round against Minnesota, 49ers quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo is 9-for-14 for 103 yards and one sack in six-plus quarters. But the lack of production from the passing game didn't keep the 49ers from advancing to the Super Bowl.

Federer saves 7 match points, advances
Australian Open, Page 21

Pirates trade Marte to Diamondbacks
MLB, Page 17

